

ANG

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas  
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

# Bayan

English Edition  
Vol. XLIV No. 12  
June 21, 2013

[www.philippinerevolution.net](http://www.philippinerevolution.net)

Editorial

## Stand for democratic and patriotic changes in the economy

To the Filipino people, the US-Aquino regime's boastful claims of a "rapidly developing economy" are empty. To the toiling masses, the Philippine economy is incontrovertibly in deep crisis. This is a truth that could not be banished even by Aquino's repeated slogans on "inclusive growth" and "sound economic fundamentals."

The intense social crisis is marked by worsening landlessness and land concentration in the hands of big landlords and plantation owners, acute joblessness and massive labor migration.

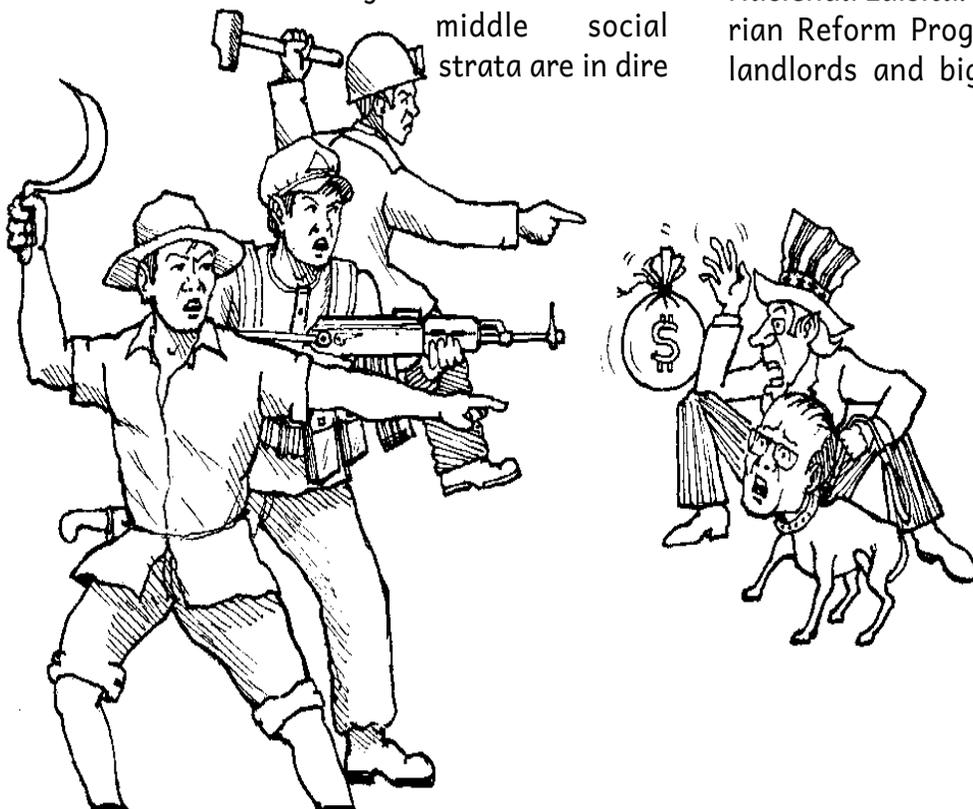
The toiling people suffer from rock-bottom wages and high prices. Peasants who are landless or who lack land suffer acutely from various forms of feudal and semifeudal exploitation. The masses of workers are subjected to various forms of "flexible labor policies" that ravage their job security, pull down their wages and deprive them of their democratic rights. Even those in the

middle social strata are in dire

straits because of severe unemployment, very inadequate incomes and the skyrocketing cost of living, education and health services.

The US-Aquino regime has unabashedly implemented the onerous policy dictates of the IMF-WB and its US imperialist master. It has imposed austerity measures by slashing budgets for public education and health services or refusing to allocate enough funds for them altogether. The prices of diesel and other petroleum products are relentlessly on the rise. Foreign mining and logging companies and vast plantations continue to penetrate the economy. Aquino has also been enforcing the "two-tier wage system" that further demolishes the minimum wage system and bleeds the workers even more.

The landlord Aquino regime is brazenly obstructing the distribution of the 6,500-hectare Hacienda Luisita. Using the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and its extension, landlords and big agribusiness companies have



*In this issue...*

**CARP: 25 years of deception** 4

**Victories of people's war in CagValley** 7

**Situation of mass movement worldwide** 11

intensified landgrabbing. "Beneficiaries" are forced to surrender the papers to their land either as a result of failure to maintain the burdensome amortization payments or by being compelled to join agricultural production cooperatives controlled by big plantation owners for the production of crops for export.

In the face of the intense economic crisis, it has become even more important for the Filipino people to advance patriotic and democratic changes in the economy.

They must vigorously expose and condemn the backward and counter-progressive dogma of the IMF-trained technocrats. They must resist the Aquino regime for implementing policies and measures in accordance with liberalization, privatization, deregulation and denationalization.

We must strengthen the movement for genuine land reform. The clamor for genuine land reform is the main democratic economic demand of the

Filipino people. The demand seeks to achieve the social liberation of the majority of the Filipino people from the worst forms of feudal and semifeudal exploitation. We must break up land monopolies and democratically distribute land to the tillers.

The Filipino people must resist the undemocratic austerity measures and cutbacks on social services. They must demand greater state subsidies for public education up to the tertiary level, higher spending for public health and a stop to the policy of commercialization and privatization of public hospitals. They must determinedly resist the demolition of urban poor communities.

The demand for national industrialization is the foremost patriotic economic demand of the Filipino people. They must demand a self-reliant economy primarily geared towards providing for their needs. They want to see the Philippines not only as an assembler or supplier of raw materials. The Philip-

pine economy will advance with agriculture as its base, with heavy industries as the leading factor and with light industries as the bridge.

The Filipino people clamor for a stop to the system of semi-manufacturing that is import-dependent, export-oriented, controlled by foreign companies and divorced from the overall economy. They want an end to large-scale agricultural production and fishing controlled by foreign big agribusiness and geared towards the export market.

They must resist the cheap labor policy and the foreign plunder of the Philippines' natural resources. They must fight for the nationalization of the oil industry which involves centralized state procurement of crude oil and setting up state refineries and government price controls.

The grave crisis of the semicolonial and semifeudal system has Aquino further sidling up to his imperialist masters for financial and military support. Aquino has terminated peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines which are supposed to enter the phase of discussing the crucial question of socio-economic reforms. Aquino has instead resorted to a brutal campaign of suppression which is set to be more vicious in the face of worsening poverty and the rising tide of defiance.

In the countryside, the land reform movement continues to make big strides.

In the cities, workers are gaining more success in building unions and other types of associations despite the severe suppression of their right to organize. They have launched strikes and other forms of

 <p>Vol. XLIV No. 12 June 21, 2013</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions.</p> <p>It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.philippinerevolution.org">www.philippinerevolution.org</a>.</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at:</p> <p><a href="mailto:angbayan@yahoo.com">angbayan@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contents</b></p> <p><b>Editorial:</b> Stand for democratic and patriotic changes in the economy <b>1</b></p> <p>Triple whammy on the people <b>3</b></p> <p>CARP: 25 years of deception <b>4</b></p> <p>Advance genuine land reform <b>5</b></p> <p>NPA thwarts AFP onslaught in Quezon <b>6</b></p> <p>NPA captures 5 AFP soldiers in SMR <b>6</b></p> <p>Victories of people's war in CagValley <b>7</b></p> <p>NPA seized 15 arms in Allacapan, Cagayan <b>7</b></p> <p>NPA metes blows on plantation, mining company <b>8</b></p> <p>Antimining movement in Nueva Vizcaya <b>9</b></p> <p>Attacks on workers, civilians <b>10</b></p> <p>MILF disappointed in talks with GPH <b>10</b></p> <p>Mass movement situation worldwide <b>11</b></p> <p>Protests erupt globally <b>12</b></p> <p>ILPS solidarity with Turkish people <b>13</b></p> <p>US internet surveillance exposed <b>14</b></p>
<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

struggle for higher wages and against contractualization.

Urban poor communities have vigorously opposed the demolition of their homes. Mass struggles are being launched against tuition fee hikes, rising oil prices, electricity and water rates and other hardships inflicted by Aquino on the masses.

The masses of workers and peasants and the middle classes know full well that they are

bound to be pulled down deeper into crisis over the remaining three years of the puppet Aquino regime. In view of the Aquino regime's policies that serve the interests of foreign and local big business and big landlords, it is increasingly becoming clear that the Filipino people have no other recourse but to wage democratic mass struggles and armed resistance in order to assert their patriotic and democratic demands. AB

## People hit by triple whammy

**T**he prices of petroleum products rose again this June. Power and water rate hikes are set for July.

On June 11, oil giants raised gasoline prices anew by ₱1.05/liter, diesel by ₱1.45/liter and kerosine by ₱0.70/liter. This is the sixth oil price hike since the May elections. In just five weeks, diesel prices rose by ₱3.25/liter and gasoline, by ₱3.35/liter. In Metro Manila, diesel is sold for up to ₱41.40/liter and gasoline, for ₱51.55/liter. Oil prices are even higher by up to ₱9/liter outside Metro Manila.

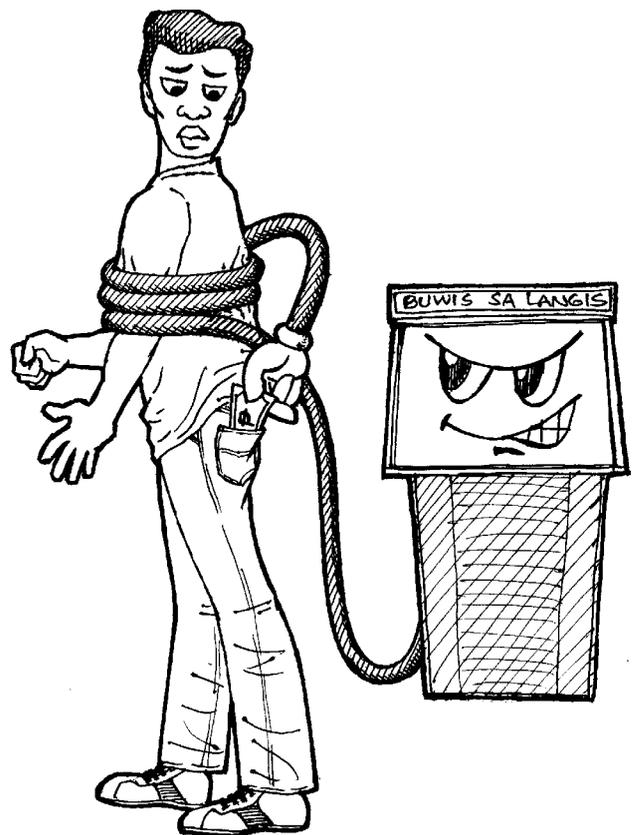
Thus, drivers of jeepneys and other public conveyances see the need to raise fares by up to ₱2.00. With oil prices so high, drivers usually earn only ₱400-500 after plying their routes for 24 hours. This is less than half of what they used to earn in 2007. It is also a long way off from the thousand pesos or more needed by a family daily. Most drivers now have to work for three to four 24-hour shifts per week.

On top of this, the Energy Regulatory Commission has approved a power rate hike petition of up to ₱0.20/kWh filed by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation. The rate increase bid was purportedly filed to enable the National Power Corporation to recover "stranded contract costs"—debts it owes to other corporations. This is the same reason cited by private companies in their previous petitions this year.

Meantime, on June 13, Maynilad and Manila Water filed petitions to raise water rates by up to ₱8.58 per cubic meter. This translates to an additional ₱342 in the water bills of families consuming 30 cubic meters per month. The two water companies said the contracts they signed with the reactionary state stipulate that they have the right to

raise water rates every five years for a period of 40 years. A provision called "rate rebasing" allows them to peg water rates to ensure their profits in the next five years. From the last "rate rebasing" done in 2007, Maynilad earned ₱4 billion annually while Manila Water raked in ₱3.68 billion. With the new "rate rebasing," Manila Water expects to earn up to ₱5 billion annually.

Progressive groups launched a series of mass actions in response to this triple whammy. Among the protests were pickets held during the Maynilad and Manila Water consultations on June 11 and 14, a rally launched by PISTON on June 11 and 20 against the oil price hike, a youth protest on June 14 and another protest by progressive organizations this June 21. AB



# CARP: 25 years of deception

Peasants from various provinces led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) launched protests to demand the junking of the deceptive Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). They camped out in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) office in Quezon City and marched on June 10 to Mendiola, Manila.

The Corazon Aquino regime boasted that land reform was central to the goal of obtaining social justice against the Marcos dictatorship's abuse of power. Her regime enacted the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law on June 10, 1988. But in essence, the ensuing CARP and its extension CARPER are no different from Presidential Decree 27, the bogus land reform program launched by the Marcos dictatorship in 1972. In its 25 years of existence, CARP not only failed to distribute vast tracts of private lands, haciendas and transnational plantations. Landlessness and rural poverty even worsened under it.

In an effort to make CARP credible, successive regimes—from Corazon Aquino's up to her son Benigno's—announced annual land distribution targets. But since 1988, the various reactionary governments have been able to meet only an estimated 44% of their targets. Most of the distributed land were public in nature and not productive agricultural land.

The current US-Aquino regime has failed to meet up to 73% (or 879,536 hectares) of its land distribution target of 1,209,236. As before, most of these are vast tracts of agricultural land owned by big

landlords. The most brazen case is that of Hacienda Luisita which should have been distributed to its farm workers as far back as 1968. It has now been subjected to CARPER.

Worse, big landlords and foreign corporations in cahoots with the state have been revoking on a massive scale land that had already been distributed. Cancellations of certificates of land transfer (CLT), emancipation patents (EP) and certificates of land ownership award are rampant, using the very same provisions of CARP. Land has also been reconcentrated in the hands of landlords through loopholes in the law, such as land-use conversion of agricultural land to pave the way for the construction of residential subdivisions, roads and other infrastructure projects.

The state's understated figures show that the 50,705 cancelled EP and CLOA in 2009 covered only 117,478 hectares. But a research by IBON Foundation shows that

by 2006, cancelled EP and CLOA already covered 204,579 hectares. The KMP, on the other hand, said that cancellations of CLOA have intensified since 2009.

The Central Luzon provinces have the most number of CLOA, EP and CLT that have been cancelled or are in danger of cancellation due to land-use conversion and the construction of infrastructure projects.

In Nueva Ecija, peasants are in danger of being displaced from their farms due to the planned construction of the Central Luzon Expressway (CLEX) and North Luzon East Expressway (NPEX) which will plow through extensive rice lands in several towns. This project is part of the Metro-Luzon Urban Beltway (MLUB) and the Central Luzon Regional Development Plan (CLRDP). The latter includes a 30-kilometer road that will pass through the municipalities of Zaragosa and Aliaga and the city of Cabanatuan.

In Bulacan, landlords and big real estate developers are evicting farmers on land affected by the construction of the North Luzon Expressway Bocaue exit.

Farmers in San Jose del Monte will likewise be definitely evicted once construction of the MRT7 and other projects of the Roxas and Ayala families begin.

Meanwhile, in Southern Tagalog, up to 394,884 hectares in ten provinces are affected by the landgrabbing schemes of 67 landlords and 49 real estate corporations like Ayala Land and SM Development Corporation. The most striking case is that of Hacienda Looc in Naguibo, Batangas that comprises 3,981 hectares of farmland. The CLOA of 1,301 farmers were cancelled to give way to planned construction projects



by Manila Southcoast Development Corporation (MSDC) which is owned by big bourgeois comprador Henry Sy. Meanwhile, in Laiya, San Juan, Batangas, CLOA covering 400 hectares of farmlands have been cancelled after the provincial government declared the place a Tourism Development Area.

In Cagayan, the most well-known case involves the Borja Estate in Amulung town, where 7,000 hectares already distributed under Presidential Decree 27 are in danger of being reconcentrated in the hands of landlords. Farmers in the estate painstakingly paid amortization in hopes of owning

the land. In 2011, however, the Department of Agrarian Reform demanded payment anew of P100,000 per hectare.

In Cebu, CLOA were cancelled in Hacienda Morales, Hacienda Sejismundo, Hacienda Aleguijo, Hacienda Libre and Hacienda Manggubat, affecting almost 200 beneficiaries.

In Capiz, cancelled CLT and CLOA have affected 150 families.

In Tacloban City and the towns of Alang-alang and San Miguel in Leyte, CLOA covering 429 hectares were cancelled and the land awarded to Court of Appeals Associate Justice Vicente Veloso.

## Advance the revolutionary movement for land reform!

People's war will advance to the next higher stage in the coming years together with great advances in the revolutionary land reform movement. Thus declared the CPP in conjunction with protest actions by the peasantry on the 25th year of the bogus Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The CPP said the clamor for genuine land reform remains the biggest democratic demand of the Filipino people. It is the main content of the people's democratic revolution which seeks to correct the social injustice long inflicted on the peasant masses, and liberate them from feudal and semifeudal exploitation and oppression.

The demand for genuine land reform continues to fuel the people's war. On a daily basis, Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) and revolutionary forces under the leadership of the CPP plan out land reform campaigns in accordance with the Program for a People's Democratic Revolution. The minimum program for land reform is being carried out on a nationwide scale.

Under the auspices of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM), the peasant masses are organized and mobilized to confront landlords with their demands to reduce land rent, raise wages of farm workers, bring down interest rates and raise farmgate prices. Under the guidance of the CPP, the PKM organizes rudimentary forms of cooperation and collectivization in order to raise production and generate additional income.

The CPP waves the banner of genuine land reform to destroy the economic base of landlord exploitation and oppression. In doing so, the revolutionary forces have succeeded in cultivating

deep roots in the countryside, building the New People's Army and setting up organs of political power under the People's Democratic Government. The revolutionary land reform movement has positively impacted the peasant masses. Aside from the changes in the relations of production that have been achieved, agricultural production

is advanced alongside other welfare programs through collective action. The best sons and daughters of the peasant masses comprise the vast majority of the Red fighters of the NPA.



# NPA thwarts AFP onslaught in Quezon

The fascist troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) tasted a series of defeats even as the New People's Army (NPA) valiantly resisted their onslaught in Quezon province.

On May 31, soldiers of the 74th IB suffered 14 casualties when they attempted to encircle a unit of the Apolonio Mendoza Command (AMC-NPA-Quezon) that was then temporarily encamped at Sitio Pangi, Ilayang Duungan, Catanauan.

The Red fighters were able to seize the initiative in the firefight by using a command-detonated explosive on the attacking soldiers in Sitio Pangi at around 8:30 a.m., said AMC spokesperson Ka Armine de Guia.

The military admitted to suffering only one casualty. To conceal their losses from the locals, the military transported its casualties through various routes. The NPA suffered minimal casualties in the 15-minute gunbattle.

A Quick Reaction Force (QRF) was sent immediately by KARAPATAN-Quezon to the scene of the fighting to gather information and make sure that the rights of civilians in the area are respected. The QRF was terrorized by the soldiers, who opened fire at their jeep and searched their belongings. The soldiers even accused a KARAPATAN volunteer of being a wounded NPA guerrilla just because his pants were stained with red paint.

The soldiers of the 74th IB are the main human rights violators in the province. They are notorious for beating up civilians, perpetrating illegal arrests and camping out in elementary schools. Recently, the

74th IB mauled striking workers of Filcoco, a coconut coir and fiber factory in Catanauan.

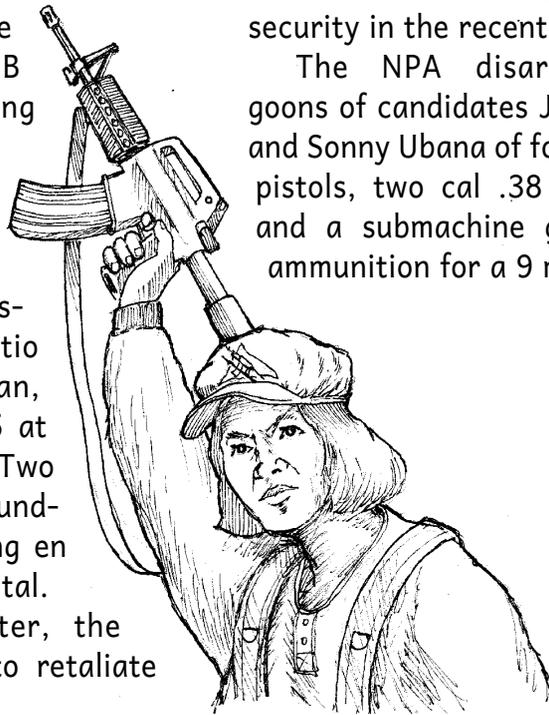
Meanwhile, in North Quezon, Red fighters under the Mario Corpuz Command twice attacked 16th IB troops conducting operations under 1 Lieutenant Bagbag. An NPA team harassed a 16th IB reconnaissance unit in Sitio Iiyam, Lumutan, Nakar on May 25 at exactly 5:25 p.m. Two soldiers were wounded, with one dying en route to the hospital.

Two days later, the military's plans to retaliate

were stymied when an NPA team confiscated supplies ordered by a squad under the 16th IB in Sitio Rao, Lumutan. The exhausted, wounded and hungry 16th IB troops eventually returned to barracks.

In a related development, the AMC seized ten firearms from armed goons of two mayoralty candidates in Lopez town in April and May. The disarming operations formed part of a campaign by the revolutionary forces to ensure the people's security in the recent polls.

The NPA disarmed the goons of candidates Joel Arago and Sonny Ubana of four cal .45 pistols, two cal .38 revolvers and a submachine gun using ammunition for a 9 mm pistol.



## 1st PBB-SMR arrests 5 soldiers

Five soldiers of the 60th IB currently under the custody of the People's Democratic Government in Southern Mindanao Region (SMR) have been declared prisoners of war. This was confirmed on June 18 in interviews over local and national media by National Democratic Front-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos.

The POW are Cpl. Emmanuel Quezon; PFC Ronald Gura, Bernie Padilla and Donato Estandia; and Pvt Marteniano Pasiagas Jr. They are elements of a "peace and development team" (PDT) under the 60th IB led by 1Lt. Neven Matan.

On the afternoon of June 17, they went to Barangay Mapula aboard two mortorcycles. The military troopers were in civilian attire when they were stopped at a checkpoint set up by the 1st Pulang Bagani Battalion (PBB) in Sitio Lubas, Barangay Paquibato Proper. Canitan, however, avoided arrest when he abandoned his men and jumped off a cliff.

AB

# Victories of people's war in Cagayan Valley

The revolutionary movement in Cagayan Valley achieved significant victories in the first half of 2013. People's war in the region is advancing in an all-sided way. The revolutionary forces were also able to utilize the election period to advance the people's interests.

A massive propaganda campaign was undertaken, airing progressive and revolutionary calls. Hundreds of thousands of people in 82 out of the region's 98 towns were reached. At least 40,000 people joined progressive organizations as the masses were actively engaged politically. Hundreds joined revolutionary mass organizations. Almost 3,000 mass activists were mobilized. Party membership further grew and new territorial committees were established.

The land reform movement is advancing. Thirty thousand to 50,000 farmers and other rural poor benefited from the various antifeudal mass struggles that were launched.

In the most striking of these struggles, farmers dismantled the fence surrounding land being grabbed from them by the Isabela State University in connivance with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the local government unit. In another town, farmers uprooted sugar cane planted by an agribusiness company that was seizing the land so they could plant food crops instead.

Peasants launched several confrontations with merchant-usurers, landlords and government agencies and achieved several gains, among them reduced interest on loans, cancellation of interest on loans incurred during calamities, and a halt to demolitions and the en-

try of landlords' armed goons.

In certain areas, farmers agreed not to pay old debts to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). The peasants succeeded in demanding that bureaucrats help raise production by providing simple farm machinery.

In one town, the people barricaded

for weeks against mining. And in another province, the barricades continue.

The revolutionary forces were able to thoroughly expose the rottenness of the reactionary elections and of reactionary candidates. The revolutionary movement in the region asserted the existence of Red political power in vast areas of the countryside to defend and advance the people's interests. It gained concrete forms of support for the revolution and the people. This is proof of the people's recognition of the existence of two political powers in the region and the entire country.

In advancing and strengthening the people's army, a regional military campaign was successfully launched. On the whole, there were 28 military actions resulting in 93 enemy casualties and the seizure of



## NPA seizes 15 firearms in Allacapan, Cagayan

The New People's Army was able to seize 15 firearms from elite troops of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) after an ambush on May 27 in Allacapan, Cagayan.

Red fighters under the Danilo Ben Command (DBC) confiscated nine Ferfran assault rifles, an M16 rifle and five 9 mm pistols.

Out of the 11 SAF elements killed, seven troops died on the spot while eight others were wounded. The four other fatalities died while being treated in a hospital.

The ambush took place in Barangay Cataratan, which is only about two kilometers from the Allacapan Municipal Police Station. A military truck the 15 police commandos were riding was then traveling along the highway when it was hit by command-detonated explosives. The detonation was followed by rifle fire from the Red fighters of the DBC.

The SAF is an elite police unit trained in "counterinsurgency tactics" against the NPA.

44 firearms comprising three light machine guns, 17 high-powered rifles and several pieces of military equipment like night-vision scopes and sniper scopes.

In a military campaign launched at the end of 2012, the NPA dealt blows on the elite units of the 5th Infantry Division—the 51st and 52nd Reconnaissance Companies. One of these was the ambush in Mabayad, Echague, Isabela on November 17 where seven soldiers were killed and three light machine guns and five M16 rifles

were seized.

Also notable was the NPA ambush on the PNP Special Action Force in Cataratan, Allacapan, Cagayan on May 27. (see *related article*)

The NPA was able to recruit the equivalent of a regular platoon.

The military actions launched by regular units and militia units further raised the morale of comrades and the masses and their readiness to join various mass struggles. The NPA's prestige further rose as the genuine people's army.

These advances in various areas of work were achieved despite intensified military operations by the AFP and PNP in the guerrilla zones and the arrest and harassment of activists and members of the mass base.

The key in the attainment of these victories was the firm leadership of the Party organization in the region, which closely fulfills the tasks set by the CPP Central Committee within the framework of achieving the stage of strategic stalemate of the people's war in the coming years. **AB**

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## NPA deals blows on plantation and mining company

**T**wo environmentally destructive companies were dealt blows by the New People's Army (NPA) in Agusan del Sur and Negros Occidental this May and June.

In Negros Occidental, Philex Gold Phils. Inc. (PGPI) terminated its mining operations in Sipalay City after an NPA attack on its facilities in May. The PGPI is one of the biggest mining companies on the Philippines.

PGPI chief executive officer Manuel Pangilinan officially announced this to the media on June 17.

An NPA platoon attacked the exploration site of Philex Mining in Sitio Umas, Barangay Camindangan on May 3. The Red fighters first told the people inside two bunkhouses to leave before burning down the buildings along with a Kubota tractor with a drilling machine and a generator set, a two-way radio set and other company equipment.

After this raid, Philippine Army 47th IB troops launched pursuit operations against the NPA. Five from the military side were killed and two others wounded when they were ambushed by the NPA a few kilometers from the exploration site on May 4. The military admitted to losing four M16 rifles, an M14 and a K3 light machine gun.

This was the third time the revolutionary movement meted punishment on Philex Mining because of its repeated violations of the policies of the Peo-

ple's Democratic Government against the widespread destruction of the environment and the people's livelihoods. The first time was in 2001 and the second in 2008.

Meanwhile, in Agusan del Sur, the NPA under the Western Agusan del Norte-Agusan del Sur Subregional Command attacked the compound of Shannalyne Plantation Company in Km. 8, Barangay Hawilian, Esperanza at around 9 a.m. of June 18.

Six firearms comprising two shotguns, an Ingram machine pistol, a cal .45 pistol and two cal .357 revolvers were seized by the Red fighters. Meantime, five guards from the paramilitary group Wild Dogs were killed when they fought it out with the NPA strike force. The guerrillas also destroyed five bulldozers and four payloaders owned by the company.

Shannalyne Plantation Company, along with Caraga Forest, Goldenbell, Tansland and Tecland comprise the Shannalyne Group of Companies, which operates on 188,802 hectares of forest in the towns of Esperanza, San Luis, Talacogon, La Paz and Loreto. These companies clear the forests for the entry of vast plantations and mining companies. With the military and the Wild Dogs, they have also been terrorizing the Lumad and the peasants in the area to ensure the seizure of their lands for the capitalists. **AB**

# Antimining movement in Nueva Vizcaya continues to gain strength

The people of Nueva Vizcaya are strongly against the entry of both the Buena Suerte Mining Company (BSMC) in Dupax del Norte and the formal initiation of mining operations of Oceana Gold in Didipio.

In Dupax del Norte, residents have continued their collective action since April to drive away the BSMC.

On the night of April 16, the BSMC surreptitiously brought its earth moving machinery to Barangay Yabbi along with armed escorts. The company timed its move at a time when village farmer-leaders were attending a province-wide peasant conference.

Nonetheless, the residents quickly acted to stop the mining company's entry by erecting a wooden barricade. The BSMC, however, was able to force its way through, using its armed goons.

The farmers and the Barangay Yabbi village council then immediately petitioned the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to call on the mining company to remove its mining equipment. The village council also complained about the BSMC's use of an armed group. The petition was supported by various alliances and mass organizations.

On May 16, some 200 persons trooped to the provincial capitol to push the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to act on their resolution. In response, the vice governor ordered the suspension of the company's activities as well as those of its armed guards.

After the dialogue, the affected farmers rallied to condemn the foreign mining compa-

ny's destructive activities in their community and encourage the people of Nueva Vizcaya to resist the destruction of their livelihood and environment. They eventually agreed to put up a barricade. On April 19, they blocked the entry of the BSMC's equipment to the area, paralyzing the mining company's operations.

The people's mass action earned widespread support throughout the province. Among those who called for support for the barricade and resistance by Novo Vizcayanos was Bishop Ramon Villena of the Diocese of Bayombong. Meanwhile, the village leaders of Barangays Yabbi, Binwagan, Makabenga and Belanse issued a joint resolution blocking the passage of the mining company's machinery through their barrios.

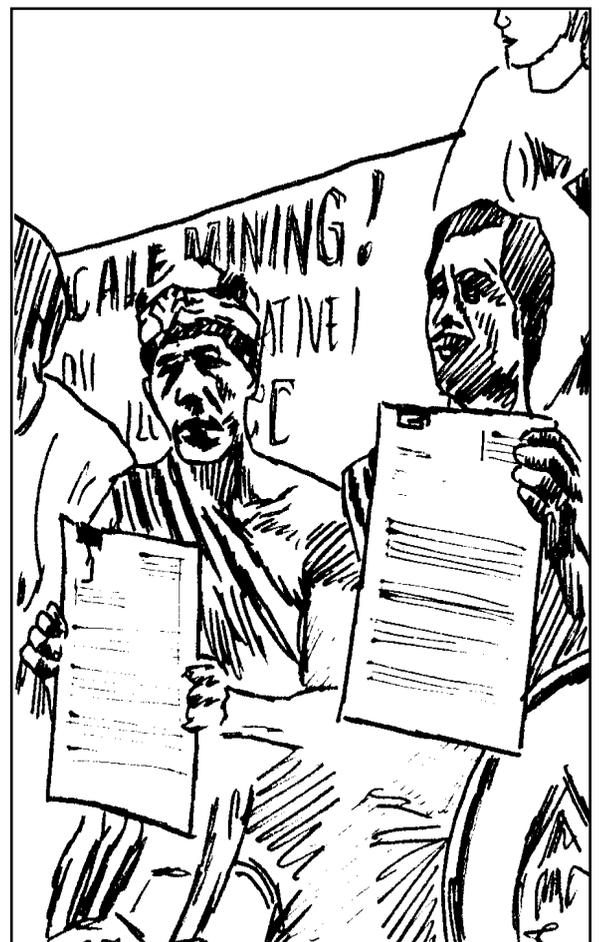
The residents have since persisted with their barricade, where they conduct discussions and study sessions and watch videos on the effects of mining in order to strengthen their unity and determination to defend their land and livelihood.

In a related development, some 100 people protested the formal opening of Oceana

Gold Mining in Didipio on May 15. The mass action was joined by various peasants' organizations. The protesters marched around the capital town of Bayombong before holding a program in front of the Oceana Gold office.

The rallyists said that the opening of the mining company signals the beginning of the gradual loss of the people's livelihood and the destruction of the environment in the region. The first to be affected by the mining operations will be the thousands of peasants and national minorities in the province. The peasants fear the pollution of the Cagayan River, which serves as the main source of water for irrigating their crops.

The protesters called on the people to expand and strengthen their unity to oppose the destructive mining company. After the rally, they put up placards in front of the company's office saying "Oceana Gold Mining Company, get out!" AB



# Relentless attacks on civilians and workers

**A** young girl was seriously injured during a demolition in Valenzuela City. In Abra, soldiers indiscriminately conducted air strikes in a number of communities. These are but some of the major human rights violations reported in the past few weeks.

**June 20.** Two mass leaders were arrested and several residents were injured while defending their homes from being demolished in Barangay San Juan, Taytay, Rizal. Some 50 families were affected by the demolition.

**June 19-20.** Policemen attempted to break the picket line set up by workers of Pentagon Steel Corporation along Samson Road in Quezon City on June 19. Three workers were arrested and brought to the police station. The day after, guards and policemen attacked anew the picket line manned by 80 workers and arrested a striker.

**June 12.** Policemen arrested four members of a progressive group launching a lightning rally in Kawit, Cavite. The four activists were dragged and forced into a waiting vehicle. They were protesting the anniversary of bogus Philippine independence and the betrayal by the Aguinaldo faction of the Philippine revolution.

**June 5-6.** A police-military convoy along with agents of the National Bureau of Investigation entered Barangay Asturias in Hacienda Luisita on June 5. The day after, troops from the 31st IB also arrived in the barangay to look for the house of Lito Bais, chair of the United Luisita Workers Union as well as other leaders of the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita. The soldiers entered the backyards of

some of the mass leaders and dug holes, ostensibly to look for hidden firearms.

**May 31.** The Valenzuela City government violently demolished a community in Barangay Bignay. A two-year old girl was critically injured after sustaining fractures in the neck and spine when staff of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and members of the demolition team forcibly took her from her home.



**May 31.** Elements of the 503rd Brigade and 41st IB indiscriminately conducted air strikes in the villages of Umap, Buanao and Lat-ey in Bangilo District, Malibcong, Abra. The residents of Mangilo, who are minorities, said helicopter gunships bombed a ricefield in Barangay Lat-ey at 9:05 a.m. The site was a mere 40 meters from the position of two teenage girls who were gathering snails. The bombing also damaged a rice warehouse owned by Ponciano Culangan, while another farmer, Rommel Teneza, who was only 120 meters away was also almost hit. Previously, the military also rained bombs in the villages of Duldulao and Gacab in the same town. **AB**

## MILF disappointed with the peace talks

**P**ace talks between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Government of the Philippines (GPH) are at an impasse due to changes made by the GPH in the annexes of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro relating to "wealth and power sharing" and "normalization" of the armed forces.

According to MILF vice chairman for political affairs Ghadzali Jaafar, the GPH recently gave them new drafts of the annexes that contained amendments, even if both sides had already agreed on and initialed the documents in February in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Jaafar said the MILF will not agree to amendments that would water down the agreements.

The MILF now doubts whether it could trust the GPH to comply with the provisions of the other annexes.

Jaafar has also conveyed to the GPH, through Malaysian facilitator Tengku Datuk Abdul Ghafar Tengku Mohamed, that it was disappointed with the slow pace of the negotiations. The Malaysian government serves as third-party facilitator in the MILF-GPH peace talks.

The GPH has not scheduled the next round of talks since April. It suspended formal peace talks with the MILF allegedly because of the upcoming elections last May. **AB**

# Current situation of the mass movement worldwide

On May 31, representatives of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) participated in the International Communist Seminar in Brussels, Belgium. This article has been excerpted from the second part of the paper submitted by the CPP entitled "Attacks on democratic rights and freedoms; strategies and actions in response." The entire document is available at [www.philippinerevolution.net](http://www.philippinerevolution.net).

The global crisis and the intensification of oppression and exploitation that the reactionary classes impose on the people have led to widespread social unrest. The people's resistance has taken various forms.

In the centers of imperialism in North America and Western Europe, strikes and protest marches have broken out against attacks on the rights of working people, austerity measures, deteriorating working conditions, erosion of social benefits, tax cuts and sky-high incomes of the upper bourgeoisie, foreign wars of aggression, racial and minority discrimination, the criminalization of migrant workers, discrimination against the youth in employment, and the higher costs of education.

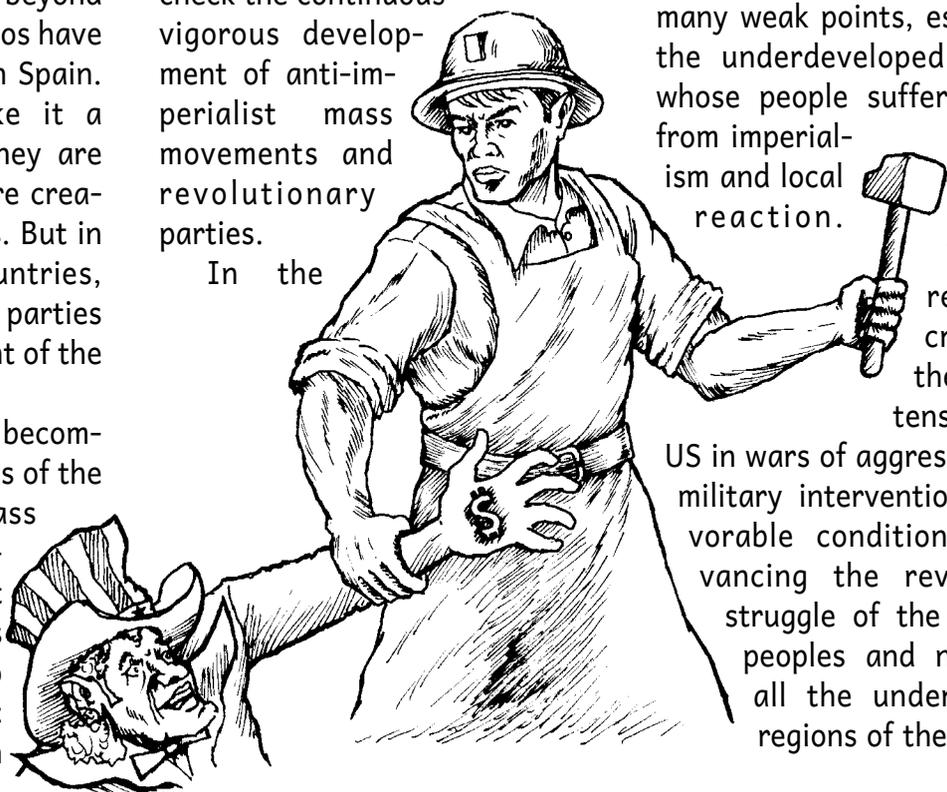
The Occupy movement has arisen in Wall Street and spread out to many cities in and beyond the US, and the Indignados have arisen on a wide scale in Spain. These movements make it a point to declare that they are not led by Parties but are creations of the spontaneous. But in Greece and other countries, communist and workers' parties have been in the forefront of the mass struggles.

The working class is becoming increasingly conscious of the need to engage in class struggle against the monopoly bourgeoisie that has long carried out its own class struggle to suppress democratic rights and press down

wage conditions. The class struggle of the proletariat is steadily coming to the fore as the workers stand up and act to defend their rights and interests. The conditions have become more favorable for the resurgence of the working class movement against capitalism and for socialism.

The prolongation of the crisis provides the genuine communist and workers' parties fertile ground to strengthen their ranks, overcome adverse factors, and sharpen the class struggle against the monopoly bourgeoisie. But certain factors check the continuous vigorous development of anti-imperialist mass movements and revolutionary parties.

In the



advanced capitalist countries, there is as yet no Marxist-Leninist party or revolutionary mass movement that is large and strong enough to challenge the monopoly bourgeoisie and its agents. The various Communist formations striving to play the role of the revolutionary party of the proletariat still suffer from the limitations and weaknesses that developed during the decades of the Cold War, the spread of revisionist and modern revisionist ideas, the neoliberal economic policy, and other kinds of imperialist propaganda offensives.

The imperialist states in Europe are still shielded from the Communist challenge by a panoply of parties, including Christian democratic, the liberal, social democratic, and the greens, and by the see-saw of public sentiment between the social democrat and the extreme right in electoral contests. However, the polarization of political forces will continue as the socio-economic conditions deteriorate.

Due to the grossly uneven development of global capitalism, imperialist hegemony has many weak points, especially in the underdeveloped countries whose people suffer the most from imperialism and local reaction.

The current global crisis and the over-extension of the US in wars of aggression and in military interventions are favorable conditions for advancing the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed peoples and nations. In all the underdeveloped regions of the world, the

entire Africa, West Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia and Latin America, mass protests and armed struggles are spreading and intensifying.

Blatantly pro-imperialist governments are being condemned and repudiated by the people in an increasing number of countries. Governments like those of Cuba, Venezuela and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have their people's support because they assert national independence and oppose imperialism. They implement policies for the welfare of the people and they express adherence to socialism.

Where the US and NATO allies have unleashed wars of aggression to bring down governments that reject imperialist dictation, such as in the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria, the most intense forms of armed conflict occur.

And even after the overthrow of these independent governments, movements for national liberation persevere and serve as long-term challenges to imperialist power.

The so-called Arab Spring has swept the Middle East and North Africa, with the masses demanding democratic changes, toppling despotic regimes, and shaking others. In the absence of a strong communist party however, the Islamic movement tends to grow stronger and gain power, as in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere. The imperialist powers headed by the US also install new puppet governments in the name of liberal democracy. Elsewhere the imperialists perpetuate puppet monarchies.

Long-running armed struggles for national liberation, such as those in India and the Philippines, are persevering. These are proving to the whole

world that armed revolution can be waged and can grow in strength under the current conditions. The Palestinian people have persisted in waging their decades-long struggle for national liberation and for their return to their homeland with broad international support. All these continue to prove that the US and NATO do not have a seamless control over the entire world.

The Marxist-Leninist and Maoist parties that are waging the new democratic revolution through protracted people's war play a signal role in bringing about the world proletarian revolution. They hold high the torch of armed revolution. They illumine the road of revolution for the peoples in the underdeveloped countries, in the retrogressive countries of former socialist countries, and in the imperialist countries. AB

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## Protest actions continue to erupt in various parts of the world

**P**rotest actions have erupted in various parts of the globe in the past weeks.

**In France.** Air traffic controllers in Paris struck on June 11 to condemn plans to create a single Europe-wide air transport system, which they fear will threaten their job security. Several airline flights were cancelled.

That night, railway workers all over France struck, crippling train schedules for two days. The railway workers' union opposed the French government's plans to create a new railway company that will integrate the company running the trains and the company maintaining the railways. The unions fear that the move will result in job layoffs. In a related development, parking at-



tendants in Paris also waged a strike.

**In Greece.** Some 2.5 million members of the two biggest workers' unions in Athens launched a 24-hour strike on June 12 against Prime Minister Antonis Samara's decision to shut down the 75-year old Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation ERT, the country's public television station. The shutdown was sudden, and done at night while the station was on air. Up to 2,700 employees lost their jobs as a result of the closure.

The Athens journalists' union also waged an indefinite strike, preventing a number of newspapers from coming out. Train and bus employees as well as bankers also launched a protest in support of the strike. Most activities in the business and public sector practically ground to a halt as a result of the massive protest action.

**In Russia.** Some 30,000 residents of Moscow marched last June to demand the ouster of dictatorial president Vladimir Putin. The protest dubbed "March Against Butchers" was aimed at supporting the call to release scores of activists imprisoned by the Putin regime because of joining demonstrations. The Russian people have long hated Putin's 13-year fascist rule.

**In Brazil.** More than 100,000 people marched in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Brasilia, Belem, Belo Horizonte, Salvador and other cities against a hike in bus and train fares on June 13. Most of the protesters were youth who called for decent education, health services, transportation and other social services. They assailed corrupt politicians who did nothing but promise improvements in their livelihood.

More than a hundred dem-

onstrators and journalists were injured when policemen beat them up and lobbed tear gas to disperse the crowd.

The intense protests prompted the mayors of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro to reduce bus and train fares in their own cities on June 20.

**In Spain.** Thousands of people rallied in Madrid against austerity measures and high unemployment rates on June 15. In Madrid, more than 7,000 condemned the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and banking giants because of the onerous interest rates they

have been imposing on the country. Spain has the highest unemployment rate in all of Europe.

**In Portugal.** A hundred thousand people marched on June 15 in Lisbon and other cities against the so-called troika: the IMF, European Commission and Central Bank. The demonstrators also condemned their government for raising taxes and slashing budgets for basic necessities in compliance with conditionalities imposed by the troika in exchange for a bailout of the country's economy. **AB**

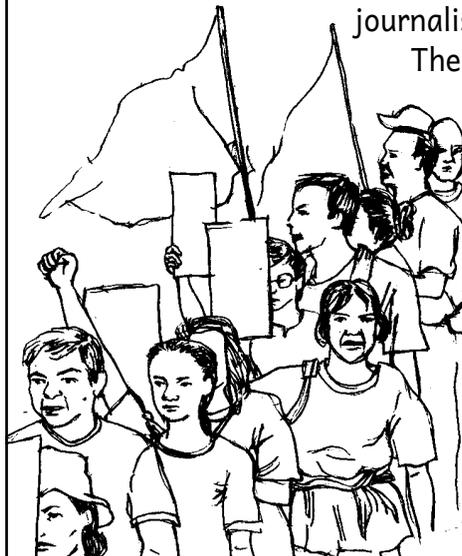
## ILPS expresses solidarity with Turkish people

The International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) expressed solidarity with the Turkish people's uprising against the anti-democratic and pro-imperialist government of Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party (AKP). Millions joined protests launched in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Adana and other cities this June. The people called for the resignation or ouster of the Erdogan government.

The militant protest actions were spurred by the brutal dispersal by the Turkish police of a peaceful demonstration by activists on May 28 against a demolition in Gezi Park.

The ILPS was one with the Turkish people in condemning the Erdogan government's puppetry to the US and NATO, for its fascist brutality, exploitative neoliberal economic policies, its oppression of the Turkish and Kurdish peoples and for its military interventionism. Turkey is one of the countries with the most number of political detainees who comprise, among others, activists, lawyers, union leaders, students, teachers, politicians, journalists and artists.

The Erdogan government supports and supplies arms to supposed rebels trying to topple the Syrian government. In partnership with Israel, Turkey serves as US imperialism's implementor in the Middle East. The US Incirlik Air Base near Adana in southeastern Turkey is being used to deliver fuel to warplanes that bomb Iraq and Afghanistan. **AB**



# US surveillance on the internet exposed, assailed

Widespread anger erupted across the globe against US Pres. Barack Obama's government after disclosures were made on internet surveillance being conducted under the National Security Agency's (NSA) project PRISM. The exposés about the PRISM program were made on June 6 by Edward Snowden, an employee of a private company under contract with the NSA.

PRISM is the code name for the US-984XN program that began in 2007 to gather all private information from the internet. PRISM could directly access data from popular websites like Facebook, Youtube, Google, Yahoo, Microsoft, Apple and Skype. Among the information collected by PRISM are email, messages, video and voice chats (Skype) and photos, among others.

Before PRISM, the US had already been using the Terrorist Surveillance Program it built after the terrorist attacks in New York on September 11, 2001. The US Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court gave it free rein to conduct widespread surveillance on the people.

All these data are stored at the so-called "NSA Utah," a nine-hectare facility housing computers capable of storing exabytes (or quadrillions of gigabytes) of information.

Alongside PRISM is a program called Boundless Informant that is being used to sift through the information gathered to search ostensibly for patterns using key words or other signs of "terrorist" or criminal activity.

No less than the companies involved in PRISM have admitted the US government's mounting requests for information yearly about their clients. Recently, scientists likewise re-

vealed that as far back as 1999, the NSA had already inserted special access codes into the Windows operating system that could be used to run programs through it. In the Philippines, there have been reports that some telecommunications companies have allowed access to the telephone conversations of target individuals.

The NSA's PRISM and Boundless Informant programs are now being massively condemned because of their violations of the right to privacy. Their activities are comparable to opening, reading, copying and sifting through all letters enclosed in sealed envelopes passing through the mail, but on a much larger and broader scale.

Despite all the criticism from around the world, Obama has had the gall to defend the program, claiming that it was necessary for the US' security.

PRISM and Boundless Informant are among the NSA's newest surveillance programs against the American people and the world's peoples. The NSA was already previously engaged in gathering all

electronic information, including telephone conversations. Another recent disclosure involved the cooperation between the NSA, AT&T and other telecommunications companies in storing all calls and text messages passing through their networks.

Snowden made the exposé on the NSA's surveillance of internet communications after he could no longer stomach the Obama government's lies and its violations of the rights of Americans and other peoples the world over. Fearing that he would be branded a traitor and imprisoned, Snowden fled to Hong Kong.

The PRISM and Boundless Informant programs must be assailed. They violate not only the rights of the American people, but those of citizens of other countries. These programs will surely be used as weapons to suppress peoples struggling against US imperialism and for national liberation.

In the face of Snowden's disclosures, internet freedom and civil rights advocates have stepped up their calls to the people to protect their rights and privacy by using free and open source software and electronic services. AB

