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CPP@57: THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION GROWS STRONGER



Editorial

CPP@57: The people's democratic revolution grows stronger

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) joins the Filipino masses in celebrating the 57th founding year of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Founded on December 26, 1968 amid the deepening crisis of a semicolonial and semifeudal state, the CPP has stood at the forefront of the people's resistance against imperialist domination, feudal exploitation, and bureaucrat capitalism, guiding generations of workers, peasants, intellectuals, youth, women, and national minorities in organized struggle.

In honoring this milestone, the NDFP salutes the Party's historic role in forging the basic alliance of the Filipino peasant and the working class, and in advancing the Filipino people's just and necessary struggle for national and social liberation.

The CPP arose from concrete historical necessity at a time when modern revisionism has proven itself to be ideologically bankrupt, and as the semicolonial and semifeudal crisis of Philippine society was intensifying. Since its inception, various US-backed puppet regimes have unleashed vicious counterrevolutionary wars against the revolutionary movement only to be met with utter failure and humiliation.

As the CPP's founding chairperson, Prof. Jose Maria Sison incisively summed up: "the people's democratic revolution continues to grow in strength and benefits from the ever worsening chronic crisis of the ruling system." The escalating oppression and exploitation imposed by imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism have pushed ever broader sections of the Filipino masses to join the armed struggle in the countryside. As Ka Joma emphasized, "in increasing numbers, they are joining and supporting the building of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the advance of the New People's Army, the expansion of the revolutionary mass organizations, the strengthening of the National Democratic Front and the establishment of the People's Democratic Government in ever wider areas of the countryside."

Indeed, the Party's enduring strength lies in its firm grasp of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and its rootedness among the masses. From the countryside to the cities, the CPP has consistently integrated itself with the daily struggles of the masses from peasants fighting for land and genuine agrarian reform, workers resisting relentless exploitation and union-busting, national minorities defending their ancestral lands against corrupt and greedy corporations and bureaucrat capitalists, women challenging multiple layers of oppression and exploitation, and the youth confronting a future shaped by crisis and irreversible imperialist decay. It is through this deep rootedness among the masses that the Party transforms the people's resistance into an organized and revolutionary force capable of dealing deathly blows against the enemy.

A decisive factor in the Party's continuing advance and resilience is its firm grasp of rectification as a vital weapon to self-criticize and to rectify its own errors. Through its rectification movement, the Party is able to combat the errors of empiricism, dogmatism in ideology; conservatism, liberalism, tailism, and sectoralism in politics; and bureaucratism and ultra-democracy in organization.

At the core of the class struggle stands the New People's Army that wages protracted people's war under the absolute leadership of the Party. The NPA wages protracted people's war by integrating armed struggle, agrarian revolution, and mass base-building, ensuring that every tactical action strengthens the political power of the masses. In the face of relentless counterrevolutionary violence, the Party has preserved the NPA's character as a disciplined, mass-oriented, and ideologically grounded force, capable of withstanding repression while advancing the strategic objectives of the revolution.

Equally important is the Party's leadership of the united front, firmly anchored on the basic alliance of the working class and the peasantry. In a semicolonial and semifeudal society where peasants comprise the

majority and workers provide the most advanced class leadership, the Party has consistently upheld this alliance as the backbone of the people's democratic revolution. From this solid foundation, it has drawn in the petty bourgeoisie and other positive forces, isolating the most reactionary elements of the ruling classes. The Party guides the united front while mobilizing the broad masses around their concrete demands while steadily raising their revolutionary consciousness and capacity to struggle.

After fifty-seven years, the CPP stands steeled by struggle, enriched by decades of experience, and enlivened by new Party members endowed with the wisdom of veteran and experienced cadres.

While the challenges ahead remain formidable as the ruling system sinks deeper into crisis, these same objective conditions are favorable for the revolution to continue to mature. As Ka Joma stated, "the intensifying inter-imperialist contradictions augur the resurgence of the world proletarian revolution and validate the people's aspirations for national liberation, democracy and socialism."

On this 57th founding anniversary of the CPP, the NDFP together with the underground revolutionary forces and the Filipino masses both in the homefront and abroad, reaffirms its commitment to uphold and advance the people's democratic revolution. We honor the martyrs and Red fighters who gave their lives, the cadres who persevere under the harshest conditions, and above all the fighting Filipino masses whose struggles give life to the Party and meaning to the revolution.

Long live the Communist Party of the Philippines!
Long live the New People's Army!
Long live the National Democratic Front of the Philippines!
Long live the fighting Filipino masses!
Forward on the road of people's democratic revolution toward socialism! 

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LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

The NDFP is the revolutionary united front organization of the Filipino people fighting for national freedom and for the democratic rights of the people. Established on April 24, 1973, the NDFP seeks to develop and coordinate all progressive classes, sectors and forces in the Filipino people's struggle to end the rule of US imperialism and its local allies, and attain national and social liberation.

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KA CLEO DEL MUNDO: MELITO GLOR COMMAND'S FIRST FEMALE NPA SPOKESPERSON

By Raya Andres - Montañosa

Liberation International joins the entire revolutionary movement in taking great pride in Ka Cleo Del Mundo and her appointment as the new spokesperson of Melito Glor Command (MGC).

Ka Cleo made history as the first female spokesperson of Melito Glor Command, the New People's Army (NPA) regional operational command in Southern Tagalog in the Philippines, highlighting the vital role of women in the revolutionary armed struggle. The post was previously held by the beloved Ka Roger Rosal, Ka Bart Alcantara, Ka Jamie Padilla and Ka Armando Cienfuego.

A seasoned NPA commander, Ka Cleo previously served as the spokesperson of Apolonio Mendoza Command in Quezon. She has been an excellent organiser and propagandist since joining Kabataang Makabayan in Quezon and later the New People's Army.

On September, in her first message as regional spokesperson, she pledges to fight any fake news and disinformation peddled by the US-Marcos II regime and its armed forces and underscores the unwavering resolve of the red fighters and determination of the Filipino people to defeat and end the US-Marcos II regime's counter-revolutionary war.

Ka Cleo is an indomitable force, inspiring women, especially the younger generation, to take up the path of the armed struggle, as the only way to liberate the Philippines from the shackles of feudalism, bureaucrat capitalism and imperialism.

Pulang Pagbati, Ka Cleo! 🍷

NPA UNITS NATIONWIDE CARRY OUT COORDINATED ATTACKS AGAINST FASCIST AFP TROOPS

By Hugo Francisco

Between September and December 2025, armed clashes broke out in Western Samar, Mindoro, Negros Occidental, Leyte, and Northern Samar. Units of the New People's Army (NPA) carried out coordinated attacks on military intelligence forces, and successfully ambushed infantry units. In recent years, the fascist troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have constantly used airstrikes and large-scale military operations, later hastily announcing that several regions across the country were "free of insurgency." However, recent reports show otherwise.

Western Samar operations

September 27: In San Jose de Buan, an NPA unit clashed bravely with 8th Infantry Division troops, leaving one soldier dead and several wounded. NPA-Western Samar (Arnulfo Ortiz Command) described the attack as payback for military actions disrupting local life of townspeople, and asserted continued guerrilla growth among peasant populations.

December 3: At 1:32 a.m., gunfire broke the quiet in Barangay Babaclayon, San Jose de Buan, leaving two AFP intelligence operatives dead. Dozens of agents stormed a house where two NPA guerillas were hiding, but the Red fighters managed to slip away after catching the soldiers off guard with pistol shots. The NPA firmly rejected the military's desperate claims that they used a child as a shield.

Mindoro Island clashes

October 1: NPA-Mindoro (Lucio de Guzman Command) bravely fought a military assault on its temporary camp

in Oriental Mindoro. To cover up its failure, the military dismissed the report, but locals accused it of covering up casualties. NPA-Mindoro spokesperson Ka Madaay Gasic argued that the AFP's denial of casualties and recent encounters aim to mask large-scale military operations during post-typhoon recovery operations in the island.

November 26: A brief but intense encounter broke out between NPA-Mindoro and the 76th Infantry Battalion in Occidental Mindoro, resulting in at least two soldiers dead and several more wounded. The NPA fighters withdrew without casualties. Following the clash, the 76th IB ramped up its presence, carrying out arrests, detentions, and forced evacuations across several barangays.

Negros Occidental targeted operations

October 3: NPA-Southwest Negros (Armando Sumayang Jr. Command) carried out the execution of Garde Francisco, a 15th IB intelligence asset, at his own home in Kabankalan City. Francisco stood accused of tracking revolutionaries and being involved in a string of deadly incidents: the killings of peace consultant Ericson Acosta and peasant leader Joseph Jimenez, a massacre of five Red fighters and a civilian, and the Kabankalan 7 case, which claimed the lives of a former UP-Cebu student leader and three elderly citizens.

September 4: NPA-South Central Negros (Romeo Nanta Command) launched a surprise attack on the 94th Infantry Battalion in Himamaylan City, wounding at least 2 soldiers. The NPA claimed the 94th IB had enforced strict military control since October 16, preventing residents from farming and caring for livestock. No NPA casualties were reported.

November 6: NPA-South Central Negros targeted and killed Jomy Pelarta, a 94th IB intelligence asset, in Himamaylan City. Pelarta was accused of supplying information that led to the 2022 capture, torture, and

death of NPA spokesperson Ka Juanito Magbanua. He was reportedly rewarded with cash and a motorcycle, and faced several sexual assault charges, including two counts of rape—one involving a victim with a disability and one count of attempted rape.

December 7: NPA-Northern Negros (Roselyn Jean Pelle Command) launched an operation in Calatrava, seizing weapons from military intelligence asset Mando Ugdiman. As they withdrew, three plainclothes police officers confronted them, sparking a firefight that left Police Senior Master Sergeant Rommel Aguilar dead. The NPA took his weapon as the other officers fled.

In October, several intelligence agents from the 15th Infantry Battalion surrendered to NPA-Southwest Negros, openly admitting their military roles. NPA said the revolutionary movement is open to intelligence agents who surrender, provided they have no blood debts.

Leyte Province

October 15: Red fighters from the NPA-Leyte Island (Mt. Amandewin Command) struck a 14th Infantry Battalion unit in Javier, Leyte, inflicting several casualties. The 14th IB remained silent. The attack came just months after the Marcos government declared most of Leyte province insurgency-free, with Javier notably left off the list.

In the last few months, the fascist military has been continuously engaged in various human rights abuses like forced evacuations, illegal arrests, indiscriminate gunfire, and distorting casualty figures. In response, NPA Red fighters consistently launched various actions to protect peasant communities and livelihood, and punish intelligence assets. NPA units confirmed continued revolutionary activity despite government rhetoric of declining revolutionary movement, emphasizing growth among peasant communities and adaptation to growing military pressure. 🚩





FLOODS OF PROTEST SURGE AGAINST THE CORRUPT

By Raya Andres - Montañosa

Since the flood control project scandal erupted in August, anti-corruption protests have surged across the Philippines demanding full accountability of all involved, all the way to Marcos Jr, the Lord of Thieves.

In his July 28 State of the Nation Address, Marcos Jr projected a strong stance against corruption, ordering an investigation into anomalous Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) flood control projects. Yet, these proclamations amount to little more than window dressing, largely failing to translate into swift and decisive actions.

Subsequent probes by the Senate, House of Representatives, and the Marcos-appointed Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI), headed by Rogelio Singson, have yielded dismal results, despite strong public clamor for accountability. Ironically, Singson recently resigned, citing insufficient funding and limited authority.

So far, eleven DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) officials involved in a ₱289-million anomalous flood control project in Oriental Mindoro have been arrested. The Discaya couple, who are at the center of the controversy over their

firms bagging billions in flood control contracts, have been charged with graft and malversation. Likewise, DPWH officials Brice Hernandez and Henry Alcantara face similar charges but have filed applications to become state witnesses.

Meanwhile, the biggest thieves like Zaldy Co, Martin Romualdez, and their master Marcos Jr, remain untouched despite strong evidence of embezzling billions of public funds through budget insertions. This reeks of systemic impunity fueled by bureaucrat capitalism.

Hence, the progressive mass movement's call, "Lahat ng Sangkot, Dapat Managot" (Everyone involved must be held accountable), has resonated widely, surging from small ripples of protest actions to bigger waves of mobilizations.

In early September, activists from Kalikasan, an environmental group, and a group of disaster and flood survivors trooped to Discaya-owned St.

Gerald Construction in Pasig, Metro Manila. They threw mud at the company gate and spray-painted words such as “magnanakaw” (thief), “kurakot” (corrupt), and “ikulong” (jail) on its walls and fence.

On September 5, Makabayan-led progressive groups rallied outside the House of Representatives as lawmakers deliberated the 2025 DPWH budget, while Bayan-Cebu activists threw tomatoes at DPWH logos and markers.

In the weeks before September 21, local indignation rallies and symbolic actions were organized nationwide.

On September 21, the first wave of major mobilization saw a massive outpouring of protesters. In Manila, Kilusang Bayan Kontra Kurakot (People’s Movement Against Corruption) led the Billion Peso March or Baha sa Luneta, drawing over 100,000 participants demanding accountability and an end to corruption and political dynasties. The event also coincided the 53rd anniversary of Martial Law, the darkest period in the Philippines, when Marcos Sr. placed the entire country under dictatorship for 13 years.

A second wave built up in October and November, culminating on November 30, Bonifacio Day. Dubbed Baha sa Luneta 2.0, Kilusang Bayan Kontra Kurakot once again drew multitudes to Luneta, this time also calling for the resignation of Marcos and Duterte.

These waves of mobilization took place nationwide and abroad, peaking at tens of thousands of participants overall. For instance, hundreds of Filipinos in the US, Australia, New Zealand, several countries in Europe and Asia, led by BAYAN staged various protests on both occasions.

On December 10, International Human Rights Day, Makabayan-led anti-corruption activists marked the occasion by emphasizing that flood control corruption is a human rights issue. The government acknowledged that the country has lost approximately ₱42.3–₱118.5 billion (US\$713 million–\$2 billion) annually since 2023, funds that could have been used to support social services. Protesters once again echoed their call: “Lahat ng Sangkot, Dapat Managot!” 🚩





KIN OF DRUG WAR VICTIMS REJOICE AS DUTERTE REMAINS IN ICC JAIL

By Hugo Francisco

"I have barely slept since last week. Every night, I pray for justice. This is the best birthday gift my son Daboy could ever receive," said Dahlia Cuartero, mother of drug war victim Jesus "Daboy" Cuartero, after hearing that the International Criminal Court (ICC) Appeals Chamber denied Rodrigo Duterte's request for interim release.

Cuartero joined other families affected by the drug war at the University of the Philippines College of Law, watching the livestream of the ICC Appeals Chamber's decision on November 28, 2025. A panel of five judges quickly rejected the appeal, ending Duterte's hopes for release. Dozens of victims and their families watched the proceedings and applauded each time the judge said "denied" or "rejected." Human rights groups and advocates also showed their support.

The ICC Appeals Chamber unanimously rejected Duterte's appeal and confirmed the September 26 decision of the tribunal's Pre-Trial Chamber against Duterte's interim release. An interim release allows ICC detainees temporary freedom, but only if they prove they are not a flight risk, unlikely to reoffend, and will not interfere with the investigation. Even then, strict conditions apply, such as isolation in a country far from where the alleged crimes happened.

In early October, the pre-trial chamber rejected the request, which led Duterte to appeal to the appeals chamber. The appeals chamber fully supported the pre-trial chamber's decision, saying that Duterte's defense team did not show any errors in the earlier ruling.

Duterte's lawyer, Nicholas Kaufman, said that winning the 'long-shot' attempt for the former

president's interim release would have been a miracle if the International Criminal Court had approved it. Legal experts note that no one has ever been released by this court for crimes against humanity.

"Ngayon ngang nakakulong siya ay patuloy ang harassment na nararanasan namin at ng aming mga taga-suporta mula sa DDS supporters. Nagpapakalat sila ng mga pekeng impormasyon, binabansagan kaming sinungaling, pamilya ng mga adik at kung ano-ano pang masasakit na salita. Gusto nilang tumigil kami sa paggigiit ng hustiya," said Dahlia Cuartero. (Even though he [Duterte] is in jail now, we continue to face harassment from Duterte supporters. They propagate fake information, they brand us as liars, family of drug addicts and other hurtful claims. They want us to stop in our fight for justice.)

She described how constant online attacks have targeted families of those killed in the drug war. Even the victims' lawyers and supporters have faced many false accusations and insults, adding to the emotional and mental stress.

Progressive groups welcomed the ICC decision, saying it gives new hope to families and their supporters and brings more attention to the search for justice. They also noted that victims have already waited a long and painful time for Duterte's trial to start. "The struggle is not over, but this decision keeps the process moving and gives victims some assurance that Duterte is in prison," they added.

Duterte has been held at the ICC detention centre in the Scheveningen prison complex in The Hague, the Netherlands, since his arrest in Manila last March. 



ORIGINS OF DDR AS A TOOL TO FORCE THE SURRENDER OF REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS

By Raya Andres - Montañosa

For decades, imperialist powers and their client states have promoted the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) framework as a supposedly “neutral” and “technical” approach to resolving armed conflicts. At present, the DDR framework is presented by the United Nations as a supposedly benevolent process of helping or convincing combatants to “lay down their arms” and reintegrate into society. But far from addressing the root causes of armed struggle, the DDR framework seeks to disarm revolutionary movements, dismantle their organized forces, and force them into surrender.

DDR: definition and brief history

Disarmament is defined as “the collection, documentation, control and disposal of small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons of combatants and often also of the civilian population” (UNDDR, 2005). While Demobilisation is described as “the formal and controlled discharge of active combatants from armed forces or other armed groups” (UNDDR, 2005), involving two stages: containment and reinsertion. Finally, reintegration is “the process by which ex-combatants acquire civilian status and gain sustainable employment and income” (UNDDR, 2005).

Taken at face value, DDR appears to be a “neutral”, technical, threefold process. In reality, it is a standardized formula of surrender: stripping combatants of arms, dissolving revolutionary

organizations, and attempting to fold them back into the very exploitative system that gave rise to armed struggle in the first place. While its individual elements of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration have long existed prior to the formalization of DDR as a framework, it began to take shape as a tripartite and structured component of UN peace operations during the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) mission in Namibia in 1989.

Namibia’s struggle for independence waged by the South West Africa People’s Organisation (SWAPO) and its armed wing, the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), was a revolutionary war against apartheid and colonial domination by South Africa. But the UNTAG mission, mandated to assist in Namibia’s transition after the ceasefire following the declaration of independence, prioritized disarmament and demobilization before addressing the deep social and economic scars of the apartheid.

Conversely, UNTAG’s mission represents the first major implementation of a formal DDR program under a UN peacekeeping mandate, albeit in an ad hoc manner. Despite being touted in imperialist circles as one of the “most successful UN peacekeeping operations,” reintegration failed spectacularly: former South West African Territorial Force (SWATF, part of SADF) combatants fell into unemployment and disillusionment as the newly formed SWAPO-led regime lacked comprehensive economic programs.

This pattern was repeated in El Salvador between 1991 and 1995. The Chapultepec Peace Accords, under heavy US influence, forced the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) to surrender arms, demobilize around 9,000 of its combatants, and rebrand itself as a political party. However, like in Namibia, reintegration was crippled due to structural issues such as the lack of land reform and inadequate economic support, leaving many ex-combatants marginalized while the neoliberal order remained intact.

This experience was carried into the 1992 peace negotiations in Mozambique. The Rome General Peace Accords marked the end of a 16-year civil war between the ruling Marxist-Leninist Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO), the anti-communist insurgent forces of the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO), and other factions. Like in previous cases, the UN-DDR framework was employed through a General Peace Agreement signed by FRELIMO and RENAMO. The UN oversaw the peace process, including multiparty elections and DDR implementation, with a focus again on disarming and demobilizing RENAMO forces. As in Namibia and El Salvador, reintegration of former combatants fell short.

Several other UN missions followed which incorporated DDR to pacify armed revolutionary struggles, including in Guatemala (1997), Cambodia (1992–1993), Angola (1991–1999), Sierra Leone (1999–2005), and Liberia (2003–2005).

By 2006, the UN codified these practices into the Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS), later revised in 2020 in response to developments such as the rise of non-state actors, “violent extremism,” urban power dynamics, and increasing DDR programs outside formal peace agreements. This “standardized” framework makes DDR even more dangerous. It grants states the authority to impose DDR unilaterally, even in the absence of peace agreements or ceasefires, while the UN provides legitimacy, the funding and technical assistance. In practice, the standardization further legitimized states in criminalizing and dismantling revolutionary armed movements by branding them as mere “security threats,” or “violent extremists.”

A recent and significant example is the 2016 Final Peace Agreement between the Colombian regime and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP), which waged a revolutionary armed struggle for 52 years.

Although FARC-EP deliberately avoided using the term “DDR” in the agreement, the Colombian regime adopted the IDDRS implicitly but heavily. Disarmament and reintegration were prioritized without securing structural political, cultural, or economic changes to address the roots of armed conflict in the country. Across all these cases, DDR reveals its true character as a mechanism to pacify armed revolutions. It does not resolve the contradictions that fuel armed struggle, rather it erases them from the negotiating table. Reintegration is reduced to token economic programs, while the roots of conflict from landlessness, exploitation, to imperialist plunder, remain intact.

UN DDR framework: GPH's tool for capitulation

Long before the UN codified DDR in 2006, reactionary Philippine regimes were already applying its core elements—disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration—in their own attempts to undermine peace talks and force the surrender of revolutionary forces. These early experiences reveal that DDR, as later formalized by the UN, was not entirely new to the Philippine context. It was simply a continuation and standardization of the “counterinsurgency” practices already tested by successive post-Marcos regimes.

The first of the post-Marcos regimes, headed by Cory Aquino, initially postured openness toward peace. But Aquino quickly retreated under pressure from coup threats led by Enrile and the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM). Instead of genuine negotiations, she reduced her offer to a mere ceasefire, culminating in the 60-day ceasefire agreement signed on November 26, 1986. The fragile truce was shattered by the Mendiola massacre of January 23, 1987, when peasants marching for land reform were gunned down in front of the presidential palace. Rather than addressing the massacre or disciplining the pro-Marcos elements in her security forces, Aquino chose to abandon the peace process and unleash war against the people on February 7, 1987.

Despite important successes achieved in the peace negotiations during the time of Fidel V. Ramos, he deepened this pattern of subversion by introducing the National Unification Commission (NUC), which he claimed would pave the way for national reconciliation. In reality, the NUC operationalized the early logic of DDR by prioritizing “localized

peace negotiations” with so-called “rebel returnees” and renegade factions rather than dealing with the NDFP as the legitimate representative of the revolutionary movement. Ramos promoted “peace talks” as a way to entice defectors, neutralize dissent in a piecemeal manner, and fragment revolutionary forces, anticipating the DDR model of individual demobilization and reintegration, without tackling structural reforms.

In September 2008, impeached president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo declared that DDR must be used as the central framework for all peace negotiations. By applying this blanket policy, the US-Arroyo regime tried to reduce the decades-long armed conflict in the Philippines into a mere issue of “peace and order” in an attempt to erase its legitimate political weight as a revolutionary movement. In 2009, CPP founder Prof. Jose Maria Sison exposed the Arroyo regime’s intention “...to front load the end of hostilities, which is the fourth and last item in the agenda (The Hague Joint Declaration), so that it can actually destroy the peace negotiations as a way of bringing about basic reforms for the benefit of the people.”

Prof. Sison early on pointed out the CPP’s critique of the DDR framework saying that the Arroyo regime was “obsessed with imposing the framework of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration simply to pacify the people and perpetuate the rotten ruling system of oppression and exploitation. By all indications, the Arroyo regime does not want the resumption of formal talks...unless it realizes immediately its malevolent scheme of and attain its malicious objectives against the Filipino people and their struggle for national liberation and democracy.”

After Macapagal-Arroyo, the Aquino administration continued with the application of the UN DDR framework. While it celebrated a “landmark” peace deal with the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) as the culmination of a four-decade struggle for Moro self-determination, the deal largely framed peace in terms of MILF demilitarization rather than addressing deeper issues of state neglect, autonomy, and historical injustice against the Moros. These unresolved issues continue to manifest in the growing crisis in the Bangsamoro region, including internal divisions within the MILF.

Even as the Arroyo and Aquino administrations moved to align peace processes with the UN’s DDR framework, the NDFP has consistently rejected this surrender agenda. In 2020, NDFP Chief International Representative Luis Jalandoni reiterated the NDFP’s opposition, stating: “All attempts to derail the GRP–NDFP peace negotiations... [including] the DDR framework aiming for the capitulation of the revolutionary movement... have been firmly opposed by the NDFP as a violation of the principles enshrined in The Hague Joint Declaration.”

While Duterte initially reopened peace talks with the NDFP at the start of his presidency, DDR was never part of peace negotiations mainly because he cut the negotiations short before it could even reach substantive discussions. By late 2017, Duterte unilaterally terminated the peace negotiations with the NDFP via Proclamation No. 360 and labelled the CPP–NPA as “terrorist organizations” under Proclamation No. 374.

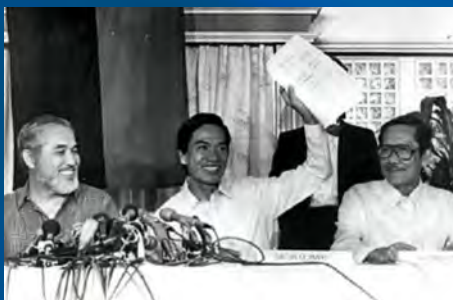
From that point on, Duterte abandoned negotiations and shifted to a militarized strategy and repackaged DDR under his broader “counterinsurgency” plan. In 2018, through Executive Order (EO) 70, he established the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). This marked a sharp break from any meaningful negotiations with the CPP–NPA–NDF. The so-called “Whole-of-Nation Approach”, a militarized, bureaucratized, and surveillance-oriented strategy to peace and security, involves all key government agencies through CORDS (Cabinet Officers for Regional Development and Security), with the president at the helm. Under NTF-ELCAC, DDR was integrated into localized “peace programs”, which serve mainly as cover for militarization, red-tagging, impunity, and systemic corruption.

Currently, Marcos Jr. has continued the NTF-ELCAC and adopted the National Action Plan for Unity, Peace, and Development (NAP-UPD), which aims to end the armed struggle and transform the CPP–NPA–NDFP. As with previous administrations, the Marcos regime shows no interest in addressing the root causes of armed conflict. Instead, it continues to pursue DDR-framed peace agreements designed to force the capitulation and disarmament of revolutionary forces. 

NDFP-GRP PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND KEY AGREEMENTS

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) has consistently maintained a policy of openness to genuine peace negotiations that can address the root causes of armed conflict. Over the decades, various Philippine puppet regimes have attempted to co-opt the peace process, often seeking to force the revolutionary forces to surrender rather than meaningfully engage in the substantive agenda items as outlined in the Hague Joint Declaration.

This infographic aims to provide a concise overview of the NDFP-GRP peace negotiations from 1986 to the present, highlighting key agreements and periods of stalled or terminated talks. The infographic underscores how successive administrations from Arroyo to Duterte and now Marcos Jr have often prioritized surrender and localized peace initiatives over addressing the root causes of armed conflict.



AUGUST-DECEMBER 1986

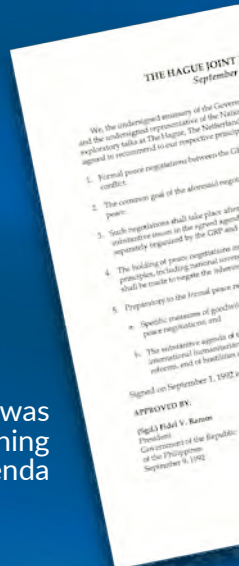
Formal talks began under GRP President Corazon Aquino after release of political prisoners, but collapsed after the Mendiola Massacre on January 21, 1987.



GRP Ambassador Jose Yap (left, seated) and NDFP's Luis Jalandoni signing the Hague Joint Declaration which outlined the framework of the negotiations and clearly identified the substantive agenda items for negotiation.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1992

The Hague Joint Declaration was signed in the Netherlands, establishing the framework and substantive agenda for the NDFP-GRP peace talks.



FEBRUARY 24, 1995

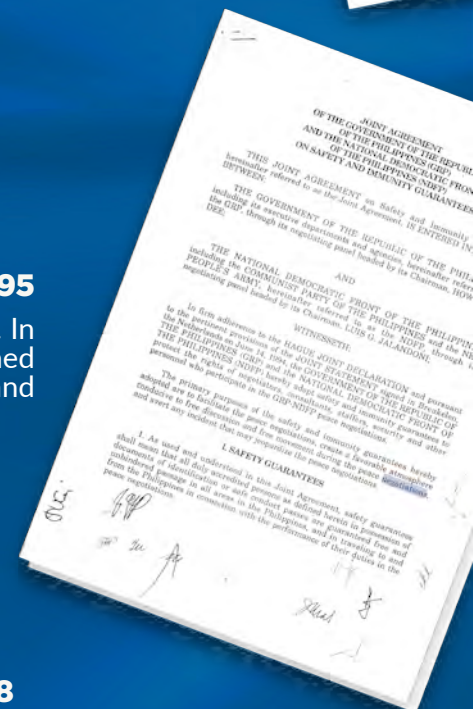
The Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) was passed. In subsequent months the same year, various other agreements were also signed including the Ground Rules to Formal Meetings, and the Formation and Operationalization of Reciprocal Working Committees.



March 1998. Reciprocal Working Committees in session after the signing of the CARHRIHL.

MARCH 16, 1998

The Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) was the first substantive agreement of the peace process committing both parties to uphold human rights and international humanitarian law.





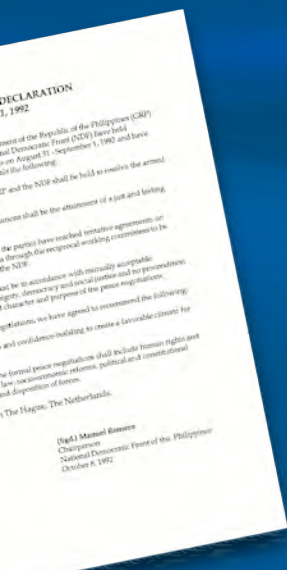
▶ June 1998. Formal round of negotiations where both panels signed the Joint Agreement in Support of Socio-economic Projects of Private Development Organizations and Institutes and the Supplemental Agreement to the Joint Agreement on the Formation, Sequence and Operationalization of the Reciprocal Working Committees.

APRIL 30, 2001

Formal peace negotiations resumed in Oslo, Norway with the signing of the Oslo Joint Communique.



NDFP and GRP panels shake hands after the signing of the Oslo Joint Communique which signaled the resumption of peace negotiations under then GRP President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.



Press conference of NDFP panel negotiators Luis Jalandoni and Antonio Zumel after the April-July 2001 Oslo Peace Negotiations.



AUGUST 2016

Peace talks between the NDFP and GRP formally resumes in Oslo, Norway with both sides engaged in multiple rounds of formal negotiations between August 2016 to April 2017.



▶ NDFP consultants and political prisoners freed prior to the opening of the formal peace talks between the GRP and the NDFP.



NDFP and GRP peace panels agreed to forge an interim ceasefire agreement in Noordwijk aan Zee, Netherlands on April 5, 2017.

▶ April 6, 2017. Fourth round of talks in Noordwijk Aan Zee in the Netherlands. This round of talks led to affirmed agreements on free land distribution and commitments on the release of prisoners of war and political prisoners.

NOVEMBER 23, 2017

Duterte unilaterally terminated the peace talks through Proclamation No. 360.

DECEMBER 5, 2017

Duterte issued a proclamation designating the CPP and the NPA as terrorist organizations. This was followed by the killings of NDFP consultants many of whom directly participated in peace talks. These included:

- Randy Felix Malayao – NDFP peace consultant and spokesperson was shot and killed on a bus in Nueva Vizcaya on January 30, 2019.
- Julius Giron – NDFP peace consultant killed on March 13, 2020.
- Randall Echanis – NDFP consultant found dead on August 10, 2020 with multiple gunshot wounds and signs of torture.
- Eugenia Magpantay and Agaton Topacio – Elderly NDFP consultants killed in a police raid on November 25, 2020.
- Antonio Cabanatan and Florenda Yap – NDFP consultants abducted and killed in Iloilo on December 26, 2020.
- Jorge “Ka Oris” Madlos – NDFP-Mindanao spokesperson killed in Bukidnon on October 30, 2021.
- Rustico Tan and Reynaldo Bocala – NDFP peace consultants for the Visayas simultaneously killed May 28, 2021 in separate incidents in Pilar, Camotes Island, Cebu, and Pavia, Iloilo respectively.

JANUARY 21, 2018

The NDFP released its latest draft of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER) after the signing of the ground rules for conduct of the meeting of the reciprocal working committees on social and economic reforms during the third round of talks in Rome, Italy in 2017.



NOVEMBER 23, 2023

GRP and NDFP peace panels sign the Oslo Joint Statement agreeing to a principled and peaceful negotiation to resolve the root causes of the armed conflict.

Under the Marcos Jr. regime, the killings and arrests of NDFP peace consultants continued. Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria-Tiamzon were captured and summarily executed on August 2022. Ariel Arbitrario who participated in the 2017 talks was killed on September 11, 2024, in Cagayan Valley. Concha Araneta-Bocala was killed in 2024. This continuing pattern of killings exposes the Marcos regime's approach to peace: rather than engaging in genuine negotiations that address the root causes of armed conflict, it prioritizes a militarist response. By targeting those who have actively participated in the peace negotiations, the regime signals its disregard for established agreements such as JASIG and CARHRIHL and its unwillingness to create a safe and constructive environment for dialogue.

Today, the Marcos Jr. regime continues to advocate for a so-called “restart” of peace negotiations, but with a narrow and highly conditional focus on disarming and demobilizing the New People’s Army. This approach highlights the regime’s enduring unwillingness to meaningfully discuss socio-economic reforms such as genuine land reform and national industrialization. 📝

NTF-ELCAC AS THE FASCIST MACHINERY OF THE PHILIPPINE PUPPET STATE

By Ricardo Lozano

This is the second in a series of articles on the DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration) Framework and how it is being used by US imperialism and reactionary client states as a tool to force the surrender of revolutionary movements

While the concept of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) is typically discussed in the context of peace negotiations, in reality, it operates as a comprehensive framework that extends far beyond the negotiating table. DDR encompasses an entire architecture of so-called “peace and development programs” designed to manage, pacify, and ultimately neutralize revolutionary forces without addressing the structural roots of armed struggle.

Within this framework, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) performs a central function. Its nationwide campaign and “whole-of-government” approach to compel surrender, dismantle revolutionary organizations, and funnel former combatants into state-controlled “reintegration” schemes represents the operational arm of DDR applied during an ongoing civil war. Through this mechanism, demobilization and disarmament are pursued unilaterally, while reintegration serves as a tool of political conditioning and social control, reinforcing a sham peace that preserves the existing exploitative order.

The demobilizing function of NTF-Elcac

The NTF-Elcac represents the Philippine reactionary state’s most comprehensive attempt to apply the principles of DDR framework as a weapon against the people’s democratic revolution in the Philippines. This application follows the internal logic of DDR as a counterrevolutionary framework developed under US imperialist tutelage using the United Nations and its arsenal of international treaties on “counterterrorism” to suppress national liberation movements while preserving exploitative social relations in the semicolonies.

The NTF-Elcac was formally established in December 2018 through Executive Order No. 70, issued under the Duterte regime. EO 70 institutionalized the so-called “whole-of-nation approach,” placing “counterinsurgency” at the center of the puppet regime and subordinating civilian agencies, local government units, and social services to military and police priorities. While

“counterinsurgency” campaigns had existed long before, NTF-Elcac marked a qualitative escalation by centralizing these efforts under a single, powerful body dominated by generals and intelligence agents supplied by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

While the AFP remains the primary counterrevolutionary pillar of US imperialism in the Philippines, the NTF-Elcac performs a distinct function within the puppet state’s machinery of repression. The task force operates as the political and ideological arm that aims to condition the public for increasing state terror. Through systematic red-tagging, so-called reintegration programs, forced and fake surrenders, the NTF-Elcac lays the groundwork to justify and normalize large-scale military operations in the countryside and the killing of revolutionaries and NDFP peace consultants.

A defining feature of NTF-Elcac’s operations has been its relentless effort to drag legal institutions and mass organizations into the battlefield by branding them as “communist fronts” and therefore “legitimate” targets of the reactionary state’s military operations. Trade unions, peasant associations, women’s organizations, youth and student formations, indigenous groups, church-based networks, humanitarian NGOs, lawyers’ collectives, journalists, and even disaster-response institutions have been publicly accused of serving as extensions of the revolutionary movement.

By labeling legal and aboveground organizations as “communist fronts,” NTF-Elcac seeks to erase the distinction between armed combatants and civilians. The NTF-Elcac thus deliberately lowers the threshold for violence, making subsequent killings, enforced disappearances, or prolonged or permanent military presence in communities appear “legitimate” despite violating numerous human rights standards and international humanitarian law. Through these activities, the NTF-Elcac effectively performs a demobilizing function that is fully consistent with DDR principles, and aims to make any form of political dissent subject to state retaliation.

The Filipino masses however, have responded with sustained resistance. Victims' families, human rights groups, churches, and progressive organizations have repeatedly condemned NTF-Elcac as a machinery of state terror. Internationally, NTF-Elcac has drawn mounting criticism. Even United Nations Special Rapporteurs and human rights experts have repeatedly raised alarm over its practices. Notably, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression Irene Khan explicitly recommended the abolition of NTF-Elcac, citing its role in institutionalizing red-tagging and fostering an environment of fear and repression. But even with widespread condemnation, the Marcos Jr. puppet regime has retained and funded NTF-Elcac, increasing its budget and expanding its reach.

Bloated budget for disarmament and reintegration

In the 2026 national budget of the reactionary regime, NTF-Elcac's budget allocation was set at ₱8.1 billion, a dramatic 314% increase compared with the ₱1.95 billion approved in 2025. Majority of these funds are to be spent for its so-called Barangay Development Program (BDP). Framed as a "post-conflict" development intervention, the BDP channels large sums of public funds into barangays designated as "cleared" from communist influence, presenting infrastructure projects and social services as rewards for political compliance.

In practice, this reintegration logic reduces peace to the acceptance of the authority of the reactionary state and the abandonment of revolutionary politics. Barangays that submit to militarization and surveillance are promised funding for roads, classrooms, or water systems, while those that resist remain deprived and targeted. The BDP also intersects with disarmament efforts through programs such as "palit-baril," where firearms are exchanged for cash, livelihood assistance, or other material incentives. Presented as a "voluntary" program, the "palit-baril" scheme promotes the surrender of weapons without addressing the political context from which armed resistance emerged. Disarmament effectively becomes transactional, stripped of any accompanying commitments by the state to meaningfully address the roots of armed conflict. This approach aligns with DDR logic that prioritizes the reduction of arms over addressing injustices that push people to take up arms in the first place.

The spectacle of surrender with guns displayed, assistance handed out, barangays declared "peaceful" all serve the propaganda ends of the NTF-Elcac, projecting an image of "peace and

development" while masking continued militarization and repression.

At the same time, the massive funds allocated to the BDP create fertile ground for bureaucrat capitalist corruption. The promise of development tied to "counterinsurgency" priorities concentrates discretionary power in the hands of military officers, national agencies, and local political elites. Contracts, procurement, and project implementation related to the BDP often lack transparency and oversight, enabling kickbacks, inflated costs, and ghost projects. Reintegration funds thus circulate upward, enriching officials and contractors, while communities receive little lasting benefit.

The maturation of the DDR framework in the Philippines

The evolution of DDR in the Philippines reflects a gradual consolidation of "counterinsurgency" doctrines shaped primarily by US security interests. While DDR was formally articulated in 2008 under the US-Arroyo regime, when Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration was declared as a guiding framework for the peace talks with the Moro National Liberation Front, the conditions for its application had already been laid years earlier. As early as 2001, in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the US-Arroyo regime adopted a "whole-of-nation" approach in its counterrevolutionary war in line with the global US-led "war on terror," expanding the role of civilian agencies, local governments, and social institutions in internal security operations.

This shift closely followed US "counterinsurgency" (COIN) doctrine, which promotes the fusion of military force with political, economic, and psychological measures to isolate revolutionary forces from the population and neutralize the mass base in the countryside. US military assistance, training, and advisory programs helped embed these COIN principles within Philippine security and reactionary institutions. Over time, DDR increasingly became fused with the "whole-of-nation" model, a trend mirrored in several countries where DDR has been implemented alongside a "whole-of-nation," "whole-of-society," or "whole-of-government" strategies (i.e., Cameroon, Indonesia, South Sudan).

A decisive turning point came in 2018 under the Duterte regime, which systematized these converging approaches. The launch of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) in April 2018 (initially implemented by the Department of Interior and Local Government or DILG) institutionalized surrender-based reintegration,

followed by the creation of the NTF-Elcac in December of the same year, which centralized counterrevolutionary programs across the entire state apparatus. This framework was further reinforced through the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, complementing the 2012 Anti-Terror Financing Law, providing the legal infrastructure to criminalize all forms of resistance whether armed or unarmed. Together, these developments marked the full maturation of DDR principles applied unilaterally, comprehensively, and embedded within a “whole-of-nation” counterrevolutionary strategy directed against the communist movement in the country.

The people’s democratic revolution prevails

Despite relentless red-tagging, militarization, and the imposition of so-called reintegration programs, the revolutionary movement continues to advance, organizing peasants, workers, youth, women, and national minorities and defending their democratic rights amid the onslaught of state terror. Moreover, the continued persistence of the people’s war being waged in the countryside demonstrates the utter failure of both the NTF-Elcac and the DDR principles it espouses to resolve the contradictions of a semifeudal and semicolonial Philippine society.

The Marcos regime’s attempts to demonize revolutionary forces and portray them as “terrorist threats” have not succeeded in breaking the people’s

resolve; on the contrary, they have only served to expose the oppressive character of the state, the hollow promises of “peace and development,” and the coercive logic underlying DDR-based counterrevolutionary campaigns. These conditions demonstrate that genuine peace, justice, and development cannot be imposed by force, nor can the fundamental contradictions of Philippine society be resolved through the DDR framework.

Genuine peace, justice, and development can only be achieved by addressing the roots of the armed conflict. This entails free land distribution to farmers combined with a comprehensive rural development program and the creation of national industries that will provide sufficient jobs and living wages for Filipino workers among other important socio-economic measures that aim to eliminate poverty.

The solution lies in a people’s democratic revolution that dismantles the structures of US imperialism, bureaucrat capitalism, and feudal exploitation, replacing them with a society that genuinely serves the interests of the Filipino people. The failure of NTF-Elcac and the DDR-based programs, inspired and guided by the US COIN doctrine, contrasted with the continued advance of the revolutionary movement together confirm that only through revolutionary struggle can the fighting Filipino masses achieve genuine national and social liberation. 



INT'L COMMUNITY WARNS US-MARCOS REGIME ON ITS WAR CRIMES: THE WORLD IS WATCHING

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

Amidst the flood of protests and condemnation for its central role in the plunder of billions of the people's money, the US-Marcos regime has ordered salary increases for its fascist armed forces and police last December 3. The reasons are obvious: buy their loyalty and consolidate control over the AFP and PNP to further effectively use these fascist forces in the regime's all-out war against the peasant masses in the countryside, and arrest and suppress the growing people's protests movement that arose out of outrage at rampant corruption, harsh economic conditions and political repression that threaten to oust the ruling fascist regime.

While keeping a close eye on the surge of the people's protest movement in the cities, the regime's fascist forces are further holding firmly on its grip on its brutal terrorist war against the peasant masses and their communities as the people's armed resistance rages on. Serious human rights abuses committed against the peasant masses continue unabated, and violations of International Humanitarian Law particularly committed against the armed and non-armed members of the revolutionary movement are covered up.

International humanitarian law (IHL) is a set of rules governing wars to ensure the rights of those involved and not involved in armed confrontations. It was created mainly to safeguard the welfare of civilians amid armed conflicts. The distinction between combatants and non-combatants, the use of appropriate force according to proportionality, the determination of who and what are legitimate targets, protection against killing, injury, and harm to those not involved in combat, assurance of minimal harm to civilians and their communities, are the core principles of IHL.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and its armed forces routinely violate these principles in their war against the revolutionary movement.

Ang Bayan, the CPP's official organ, has listed these IHL violations as follows: willful killing of the captured and incapacitated; abductions and enforced

disappearances of revolutionaries including civilians with them; forced abduction of pregnant women guerillas on medical leave and kidnapping their babies, and using them as hostages to force the surrender of their guerrilla parents; arrests, fabricated charges and forced surrenders; coercion, inhumane detention and treatment; desecration of remains; and the use of disproportionate force (bombings of communities).

Peasant communities endure the brutal state of de facto martial rule in their communities – their right to pursue their livelihoods, free movement and social communications are violated, strictly controlled and hindered. Savage US counterrevolutionary measures employed during the Vietnam war are implemented unabated in the countryside ravaging peasant communities.

Just recently, in Gandara, Samar province, south of Metro Manila, up to 29 families or more than 80 individuals have been forced to evacuate from the villages of Marcos and San Miguel as of November 24, 2025 after alleged gunbattles between the military and the New People's Army (NPA) in the upland areas bounding the towns of Gandara and San Jorge.

In Sitio Pusol, Barangay Limot, Kalinga province, north of Manila, fascist troops of the 103rd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army (IBPA) occupied the community and have encamped in the area after encounters between soldiers and the NPA guerrillas between November 14 and November 21, 2025. Local residents have an ongoing struggle against the construction of the Saltan hydropower project which will displace entire communities, destroy livelihoods and adversely impact the ecosystem. Militarizing the communities could be the regime's way of pressuring the locals to agree to the project, according to human rights groups.

Human rights groups have already documented and condemned many human rights and IHL violations committed by the fascist AFP recently, including the use of disproportionate force, aerial and indiscriminate bombings of peasant communities, in Abra and Ilocos provinces in 2024. In earlier documented cases, the AFP has violated the principle of proportionality by

dropping 250 and 500-pound bombs on peasant communities and areas suspected of being guerrilla camps, in Eastern Visayas in November 2022, in Butuan City and Malaybalay City in Mindanao island.

In these counterrevolutionary operations, peasant communities and their farmlands and forests were destroyed.

The gravity of environmental destruction, human rights and IHL violations and militarization in peasant communities has again drawn the attention of the international community. In October 2025, international groups organized fact-finding missions in Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, Leyte, and Negros Occidental provinces.

The recent international fact-finding mission found that ongoing large-scale resource extraction, land conversion, and militarized 'development' projects endanger both ecosystems and those who protect them, and that continuing abuses are linked to counter-insurgency and surveillance operations by state forces, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and harassment of community leaders, organizers, and activists.

"These violations often occur in areas overlapping with ancestral domains and protected territories. The

worsening climate crisis, further fueled destructive extractive industries and stolen public funds meant for safeguards against natural disasters have displaced communities, worsened food insecurity, and ecological loss – conditions that drive local resistance and calls for accountability, which the government often too immediately labels as 'insurgency' and 'security threats'", the mission stated in their report.

This latest manifestation of international solidarity is a stark reminder to the US-Marcos regime that the international community and the friends of the Filipino people are closely watching, and will always stand in solidarity with the peasant communities and victims of human rights violations and war crimes, as they have justly and honorably done so in the past.

The indictment and convictions of quasi-bodies such as international people's tribunals, and similar findings conducted by international agencies such as the UN and the International Criminal Court may be used in the future in prosecuting both states and individuals as in the Nuremberg trials which prosecuted Nazi war criminals.

However, revolutionary justice will always take precedence in dispensing justice to the Filipino people. 





THE TALE OF TWO *Randy's*

By Ricardo Lozano

Randy Malayao and Randy Echanis were two Filipino revolutionaries who dedicated their entire lives in service of the Filipino people's struggle for national and social liberation. The two are from different generations and arenas of struggle, and they indeed shared the same name. But more importantly, they were bound by a common dedication to wholeheartedly and selflessly serve the people.

Randy Malayao: "To Serve the People Selflessly Is Glorious"

"To serve the people selflessly is glorious." These words, spoken by Felix Randy Malayao, have become etched into the collective memory of human rights defenders, peace advocates, and activists inspired by his life and legacy. Randy was assassinated while asleep in a passenger bus on his way to his home town on January 30, 2019.

Randy Malayao was the youngest peace consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in its peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). He served as one of the main spokespersons for the NDFP Peace Negotiating Panel during the Oslo round of talks in 2017.

Randy devoted more than three decades of his life to the people's movement: years spent organizing, educating, building alliances, and working tirelessly for a just and lasting peace. He was supposed to be protected by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), a peace agreement signed by both the GRP and the NDFP panels that

protects negotiators and consultants from arrest, surveillance, and attack. That protection was blatantly violated. He became one of the first NDFP peace consultants to be killed following Duterte's unilateral termination of the peace negotiations on November 23, 2017. Prior to Randy, a number of peace consultants have been arrested with trumped up charges.

In one of the many tributes to Randy, one of his comrades from Cagayan Valley recalled that Randy could have chosen a quieter, more comfortable life, but doing so would have meant turning his back on the people, something he was constitutionally incapable of doing.

He was known as a hands-on organizer and bridge-builder. From the College Editors Guild of the Philippines to Bayan Muna and the Makabayan Coalition, Randy excelled at building alliances, uniting people across political affiliations without compromising principles.

As regional coordinator of Bayan Muna in Cagayan Valley, vice president for Luzon of the Makabayan Coalition, and a peace advocate, Randy embodied the unity of struggle for human rights, democracy, and peace.

Randy Echanis: "Pasted on the wall of history"

Ka Randall "Randy" Echanis belonged to an earlier generation of revolutionaries, forged in the crucible of the First Quarter Storm and the rapid expansion of the people's war in the 1970s. His life represents decades of consistent, disciplined struggle to break the backbone of feudal and semifeudal exploitation and to liberate the Filipino people from US imperialist domination, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism.

Ka Randall was among the students from Manila who went to the countryside and joined the newly founded New People's Army. From 1970 to 1982, he played a key role in building the people's army and peasant movement in Isabela, Cagayan, the Cordillera, and Ilocos. He led early mass campaigns against large haciendas and organized open actions against feudal and semifeudal exploitation. This was the work that allowed him to grasp deeply the central role of the antifeudal peasant struggle in Philippine society.

Repeated imprisonment did not break him. Detained under the Marcos dictatorship, the Aquino regime, and later under Macapagal-Arroyo, Ka Randall emerged from prison each time more resolute. After his release in 1992, he devoted himself fully to the open democratic movement, serving political detainees and, for over two decades, leading mass organizations of peasants and agricultural workers.

As chairperson of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), founding leader of the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agikultura (UMA), and chair of Anakpawis Partylist, Ka Randall fought both in the streets and within the reactionary parliament. He

relentlessly exposed bogus land reform programs at a time when neoliberalism, "free market" dogma, and the global "war on terror" were being used to justify militarization and repression.

He was also a key NDFP peace consultant on agrarian reform and rural development, and a member of the Reciprocal Working Committee on Social and Economic Reforms. His contributions to the drafting of Comprehensive Agreement on Socio Economic Reforms (CASER) were foundational.

Even in death, Ka Randall's life continues to reverberate through the generations of struggle he helped forge. Perhaps most painfully and powerfully through his daughter, Amanda Echanis. Like her father, Amanda has known the cruelty of the reactionary state firsthand, having been imprisoned for her political work. From her jail cell, she wrote a poem for her father entitled "Pasted on the wall of history" highlighting the enduring relevance of Ka Randall's contributions to the struggle for national and social liberation in the Philippines.

Ka Randall's assassination, like that of Ka Randy, was meant to terrorize the revolutionary movement into submission. Instead, the brutal killings of Randy Malayao and Randy Echanis only exposed the puppet regime's desperation and served only to deepen their isolation from the Filipino masses.

The fascist state may murder revolutionaries, but it cannot kill the revolution. Ka Randy Malayao and Ka Randy Echanis will both live on in the next generation of activists and youth who continue to organize, in the peasants who fight for land, in the workers who demand dignity, and in the masses who refuse to be silenced. 🚩





US IMPERIALISM WAGES WAR AGAINST VENEZUELA AMID STRATEGIC DECLINE

NDFP International Office

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) International Office condemns in the strongest terms the United States' bombing of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, its open military aggression against Venezuelan territory, and the abduction of President Nicolas Maduro. These actions represent a blatant violation of Venezuelan sovereignty, international laws, and yet another chapter in the long and bloody history of US imperialist intervention in Latin America and the Caribbean.

US imperialism, facing strategic decline and overlapping crises, is waging a war against Venezuela in a desperate attempt to maintain its hegemonic status. In its 2025 National Security Strategy, the US government itself admits that it "will reassert and enforce the Monroe Doctrine to restore American preeminence in the Western Hemisphere, and to protect our homeland and our access to key geographies throughout the region." It goes on to say that it seeks to "deny non-Hemispheric competitors the ability to position forces or other threatening capabilities, or to own or control strategically vital assets, in our Hemisphere."

The real objective of US aggression against Venezuela is not the fictitious "war on narcotics," nor any concern for democracy or human rights. What US imperialism seeks is control over Venezuela's vast oil reserves and

strategic resources, control over its political orientation, and control over the direction of LAC as a whole.

A key motivation behind US attempts to control Venezuela and reassert dominance over the LAC region is its sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry with China and the accompanying economic stagnation that has plagued the global imperialist system in the past decades. In this context, the US seeks to prevent China from establishing economic, political, or military footholds in the region, particularly as the former explores military cooperation and expands basing arrangements in other parts of the world. Venezuela's continuing assertion of national sovereignty, its potential alignment with the US government's primary imperialist rival, its refusal to submit to US economic and military domination therefore make it a prime target for destabilization and attack.

This aggression is part of a broader offensive across the region under the Trump administration, which has intensified coercion against Latin American and Caribbean countries that deviate from US imperialist interests. Sanctions imposed against Colombia's president in October 2025, open meddling in the electoral processes of Honduras and Argentina, and renewed threats against Mexico all point to a coordinated effort to control the region.

This same imperialist policy is fully at work in the Philippines. In recent years, the US has deployed advanced missile platforms across the archipelago, including the Typhon mid-range missile system, which is capable of launching Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles and SM-6 missiles. These deployments have been accompanied by repeated rotations of HIMARS rocket systems, which can deliver long-range precision strikes. The US has escalated the scale and aggressiveness of the Balikatan war exercises, transforming them into full-spectrum war simulations involving missile launches, amphibious assaults, and integrated command-and-control systems. These exercises and missile deployment programs are explicitly aligned with the US "first island chain" strategy and are designed to position the Philippines as a forward operating base in a potential war against China.

To fully realize this objective, US imperialism seeks to crush the national liberation movement in the Philippines, which stands as a major obstacle to the permanent militarization of the country. This is why the Trump administration continues to provide political backing, military aid, intelligence support, and supervision to the Marcos regime as it wages a brutal counterrevolutionary war against the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the broad revolutionary mass movement. The suppression of the

people's democratic revolution in the Philippines and the attacks against Venezuela's anti-imperialist government are meant to create a stable platform for further imperialist wars. Just as Venezuela is bombed and besieged to enforce US dominance in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Philippines is militarized and subjected to counterrevolutionary violence to secure US control in Asia Pacific.

Whether in Venezuela or in the Philippines, US imperialism seeks to maintain its hegemony by tightening its grip over the semicolonies, waging wars against nations assertive of their sovereignty, and crushing all efforts by peoples to chart an independent path free from US imperialism and its hegemonic program.

The Filipino revolutionary movement affirms its full solidarity with the Venezuelan people in their valiant resistance against US imperialism. The NDFP has a long history of friendly relations with the people of and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela forged through shared struggles against foreign intervention and local ruling classes subservient to the US. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the Venezuelan masses in the common struggle for sovereignty and against US imperialism.

Stand with Venezuela against US imperialist aggression!
Down with US imperialism! 



The Monster Ravages the Forests and Mountains

The birds have fled and sing no more
Where the monster has felled the trees
With complete abandon, with no concern
For the life of the forest that he ravages.

The wooden furniture and panelings
Of homes and offices in cities are splendid
While the folks where the trees are gone
Miss the savor of wild plants and animals.

And the flood and drought take turns
In drowning and parching the land
To ruin the rhythm and future of crops
And afflict the folks in the valleys and plains.

The monster is frenzied at ripping off
The mineral ores from the mountains.
He digs wide open pits and uses chemicals
Of the deadliest sorts to hasten the extraction.

The monster is pleased with the gold,
Silver, platinum, nickel, chrome, zink, copper
And other ores to feed his industry
And make all sorts of strong and shiny things,
While poison flows to the streams and wells,
The tailings silt and choke the rivers,
And the mountains erode until they crumble
With landslides and mud flows to afflict the folks.

By denuding the forests, the monster robs
The land of its lungs and the shield against typhoons.
By extracting the ores, he robs the country
Of its development independent of its greed.

Prof. Jose Maria Sison, August 2013