



ANG

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

Bayan

Vol XLVI No. 16
December 7, 2015
www.philippinerevolution.net

Editorial

Completely frustrate the US and its puppet's Oplan Bayanihan

At its core, Oplan Bayanihan is an extensive and prolonged war campaign launched by the US, through its puppet state, to defend the rotten ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system and suppress all forces advancing the struggle for democracy and national freedom.

Expect the US to persist with this war campaign under the next regime. The US is determined to suppress the Filipino people's armed and non-armed struggles.

Oplan Bayanihan is being implemented principally by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), US imperialism's most reliable organization. It is subjected to all-out indoctrination and trainings, heavily funded and armed in order to serve as its instrument of rule in the Philippines. The US aims to further open up the entire country to plunder and to intensify the suppression of the toiling masses in order to exact greater profit from the cheap labor-power of the Filipino workers.

As the principal implementor of Oplan Bayanihan, the AFP aims to wash its bloodied hands and appear credible to the public. It has launched programs to prettify and bedazzle the people. It does the "peace" and

"human rights" masks in an attempt to cover up its long record of suppression and brutality. The AFP deceitfully charms the toiling masses through sham projects funded by the USAID and other agencies, "scholarships" for youth, "livelihood trainings" and other programs to occupy the people and draw their attention away from their revolutionary activities.

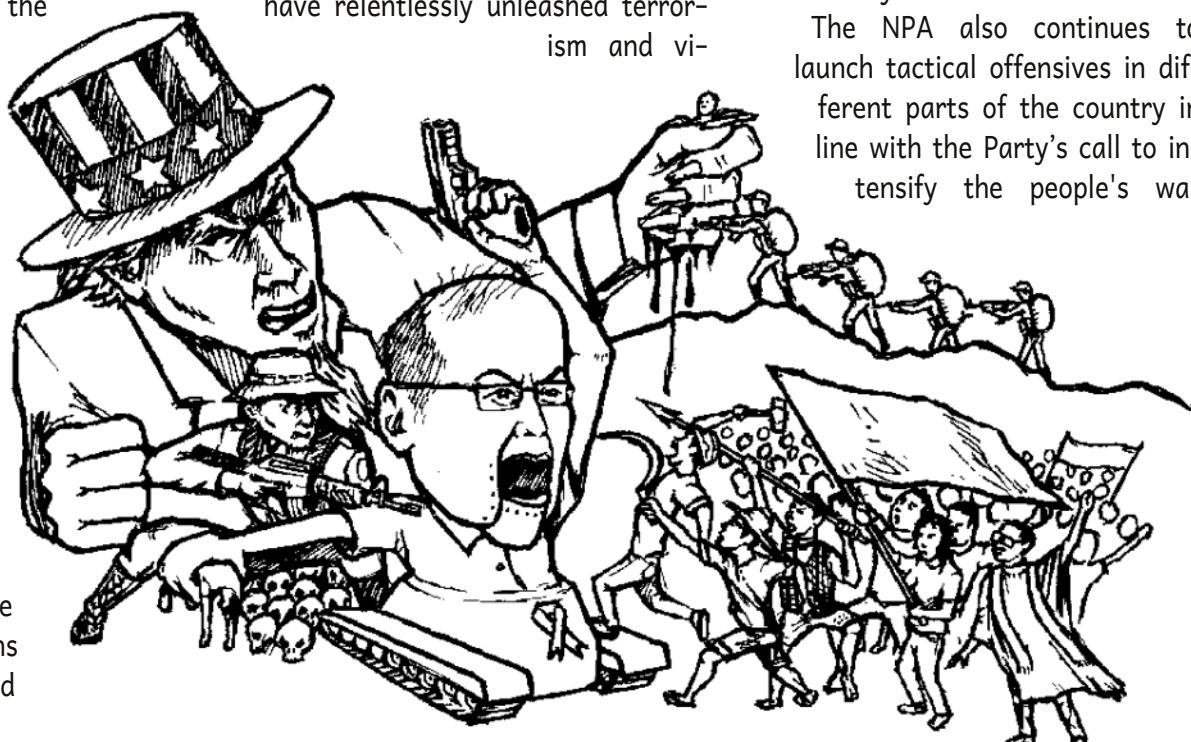
However, empty propaganda and sham programs fail to conceal the AFP and Oplan Bayanihan's fascist core. Over the past five years, the armed troops of the AFP, its paramilitaries and police forces have relentlessly unleashed terrorism and vi-

olated human rights with the aim of suppressing the mass struggles and armed resistance of the Filipino people.

The AFP and its agents relentlessly carry out killings, abductions, harassments, illegal arrests, torture and detention, occupation and imposition of rule in communities, violation of schools and civilian infrastructures, causing disorder, stealing, promoting vices and anti-social activities and others.

Oplan Bayanihan has failed to defeat the NPA and the Filipino people's armed resistance. The armed revolution continues to advance nationwide, even in the regions of eastern Mindanao, where the AFP has carried out sustained deployment of forces and operations with direct US support for almost two years now.

The NPA also continues to launch tactical offensives in different parts of the country in line with the Party's call to intensify the people's war



across the archipelago.

Oplan Bayanihan has failed to suppress the democratic struggles of workers, urban poor and student youths. Activists and mass leaders are able to persist in their struggles despite the AFP's use intimidation tactics, suppression and harassments, including the legal offensive of pervasively filing trumped-up charges, as well as arrests and detentions.

The US has also failed in its aim make the ruling state appear credible and present it as legitimately representing the people's interests. Since 2010, the US and other imperialist institutions have spent huge sums to create the illusion of the "straight path" and "anti-corruption," employing its puppet Benigno Aquino.

As part of "counter-insurgency" in the Philippines, the US has also been pushing big international and local bourgeois media to support the propaganda of "clean government" and the image of an "economic miracle." The US has mobilized its expert public opinion

manipulators to prettify the image of the police, military, judiciary and various agencies of the reactionary government.

Despite the heavy pour of funds, it didn't take long before the illusion of a "clean government" was exposed. Within only a year, the Aquino regime was exposed as no different from the past regimes in terms of corruption and rottenness. The image of a "straight path" was also torn apart as Aquino's several hundred billion peso pork barrel is exposed. The Aquino regime has become extremely isolated because of its criminal negligence of victims of the Yolanda, Pablo and other storms and earthquakes and the AFP demolition operations in Zamboanga in 2013. The people are also incensed at how the regime has served big comprador and foreign capitalist interests through its Public Private Partnership program.

As the Aquino term ends, US imperialism is once again active in intervening in the elections to en-

sure that the succeeding regime fits into its counter-insurgency designs. A credible government is vital for US imperialist's counter-insurgency. The US is set to use its control over the AFP and other government agencies, as well as the automated elections, to ensure that the succeeding regime and its officials will follow its dictates.

Through US-trained AFP officials, US imperialism's Oplan Bayanihan will surely carry through whether in the form of an extension or under a new name. Under the counter-insurgency doctrine, the US is bound to intensify its intervention in combat and psywar operations.

The Party and all revolutionary forces must firmly unite the entire Filipino people to exert all-out efforts to all-roundedly fight and frustrate Oplan Bayanihan. The Party must be further strengthened in order for it to serve as a strong core and leader of the struggle of the Filipino people.

The rotten semicolonial and semifeudal system that is at the base of Oplan Bayanihan must be exposed. The national-democratic propaganda movement that exposes imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism as the root problems of the Filipino people must be vigorously advanced.

The people's war must be intensified nationwide. The NPA's numbers and strength must be increased severalfold. Ensure building the vertical forces directly under the leadership of the regions and subregions, local guerrilla forces under the guerrilla fronts, forces of the people's militias and partisan and commando forces. Oppose conservatism, guerrillaism and adventurism and launch more frequent and bigger tactical offensives against targets that can surely be defeated.

Firmly take hold of the tasks in advancing widespread and intensified guerrilla warfare in order to

 <p>Vol XLVI No.. 16 December 7, 2015</p> <p>Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Hiligaynon, Waray and English.</p>  <p>It can be downloaded from the Philippine Revolution Web Central at www.philippinerevolution.net</p> <p>Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items. Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspaper. Send your messages to cppinformationbureau@gmail.com</p>	<h2>Contents</h2> <p>Editorial: Completely frustrate the US and its puppet's Oplan Bayanihan 1</p> <p>Aquino's bloody and brutal record 3</p> <p>Latest landgrabbing scheme in HLI 4</p> <p>NPA seizes 14 arms in Rizal 5</p> <p>POW release in MisOr 5</p> <p>American saved by VFA 5</p> <p>Wage increase and jobs 6</p> <p>Election rivalries 7</p> <p>The US arms industry 8</p> <p>Climate conference in Paris 10</p> <p>Turkish lawyer assassinated 11</p>
<p>Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

fulfill the requirements for advancing towards the next strategic stage of the people's war.

Agrarian revolution must be vigorously advanced as the solid basis for waging armed struggle in the countryside. Advance the struggles to reduce land rent, eradicate usury and raise wages of farm workers. Implement the maximum land reform program wherever viable. Build and raise the level of full-fledged mass organizations as basis for building organs of political power.

Advance peasant struggles nationwide. Build the broadest unity of peasants against widespread landgrabbing, entry of plantations and mines, and against widespread land-conversions for commercial and export-oriented production,

tourism and for real estate.

Advance the mass struggle of workers, peasants, urban poor, youth, women and other democratic sectors. Arduously fight the oppressive and anti-people US-imposed neoliberal policies.

Fight US military intervention in the Philippines and demand the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement, the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement and other unequal military agreements with the US.

Expose US counter-insurgency intervention in the Philippines. Expose US instigation of the AFP to impose a "military solution" to the country's internal conflict. Expose AFP "modernization" as mere dumping of obsolete US matériel in order for these to generate extra

profit and serve US power-projection in the Asia-Pacific.

In the academe and mass media, expose the AFP as a US counter-insurgency tool and the Oplan Bayanihan as a war campaign serving the interests of US imperialism. Relentlessly and untiringly expose and oppose every case of military abuse and violation of human rights. Build a broad front of various sectors against the counter-insurgency doctrine and strengthen the call to resume peace negotiations as one of the means of addressing the root causes of the civil war.

Expose and oppose the militarization of "public service" and "civil service" as well as how the AFP coordinates various agencies of government for the vile aims of counter-insurgency. **AB**

Aquino's bloody and brutal record

ON DECEMBER 10, the Filipino people is set to commemorate the 67th International Human Rights Day amid unabated violations of the Filipino people's rights by the US-Aquino regime. From June 2010 to September 2015, human rights groups have recorded almost 300 cases of political killings. Fifteen massacres were perpetrated, with 54 people killed. These massacres and killings are undertaken by the military with the help of paramilitary groups created, armed and funded by the state and big mining companies.

While terrorism is prevalent all over the country, state violence is concentrated and intense in Mindanao where the AFP believes the New People's Army (NPA) is strongest. Militarization of communities is commonplace, as well as occupation of schools and other civilian infrastructure, restrictions on the residents' mobility, and food blockades and restrictions on commerce. Abuses, threats and other terrorist acts are also widespread and have resulted in thousands fleeing communities.

On its last year, state repression and terrorism under Oplan Bayanihan have intensified and become more brutal. The most recent is the attempted killing of Isabello Tindazan's son last November 22. Tindazan is the chairperson of the Compostela Farmers Association (CFA). Noel Tindazan was in front of a store in Mambusao, Ngan, Compostela when unknown men fired

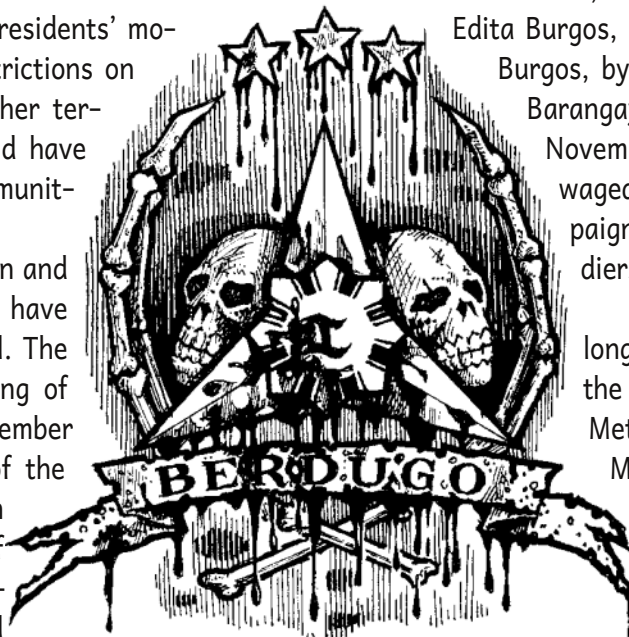
upon him. The younger Tindazan was able to evade bullets by leaping onto the next road but has yet to return to his home. Like his father, Noel is also a CFA member. The CFA is the prime organization opposing the planned operations of Agusan Petroleum and Mining Corporation, a company owned by Eduardo Cojuangco.

Harassment of activists and human rights organizations is relentless and intensifying. Peace consultants and personnel face widespread trumped-up charges and detentions.

Up to the present, the state is still to release detainee and National Democratic Front of the Philippines' consultant Eduardo Serrano, even after murder and multiple murder charges against him were dropped.

In Bulacan, soldiers attempted to intimidate Edita Burgos, mother of desaparecido Jonas Burgos, by entering their family farm in Barangay Tartaro in San Miguel last November 25. The Burgos mother has waged a long and persistent campaign to bring to justice the soldiers who abducted her son.

Meanwhile, after a month-long stay in the national capital, the 700 Lumads who travelled to Metro Manila returned to Mindanao on November 24. Malacanang's spokesperson lied outrightly when he announced that a dialogue between Aquino and the



travellers took place on that same day.

Not a single AFP unit has been withdrawn from the Lumad communities, and additional battalions and companies have been deployed to the island instead. Abuses and militarization of Lumad communities continue.

Only last November 30, the Pasaka Confederation of Lumad Organizations in Southern Mindanao Region reported the renewed evacuation of more than a hundred Lumads from Side 4, Barangay Mangayon in Compostela Valley due to the military's refusal to leave their community. Soldiers entered Side 4 in November 23 and occupied the residents' houses.

Before the travellers returned to the island, they filed an administrative case against Armin Luistro, Department of Education (DepEd) secretary, with the office of the Ombudsman. According to the complainant, the Save our Schools Network, Luistro violated various laws defending the rights of the child when he filed and implemented DepEd Memorandum 221.

The said memorandum, entitled "Guidelines on the Protection of Children during Armed Conflict" enables the military to impose their presence in schools and has resulted in militarization and other violations of the rights of students, teachers and entire communities. **AB**

Another landgrabbing scheme in HLI

THE UNYON ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA or Agricultural Workers Union) condemns the Cojuangco-Aquinos and their cohorts' latest acts of violence against Hacienda Luisita peasants.

Last November 26 and 28, two truckloads of soldiers and two police vehicles entered barangays Balete, Lourdes and Central. They provided armed security to workers and linesmen of PetroSolar Corporation, which is set to build the Tarlac Solar Power Project (TSPP) inside the hacienda.

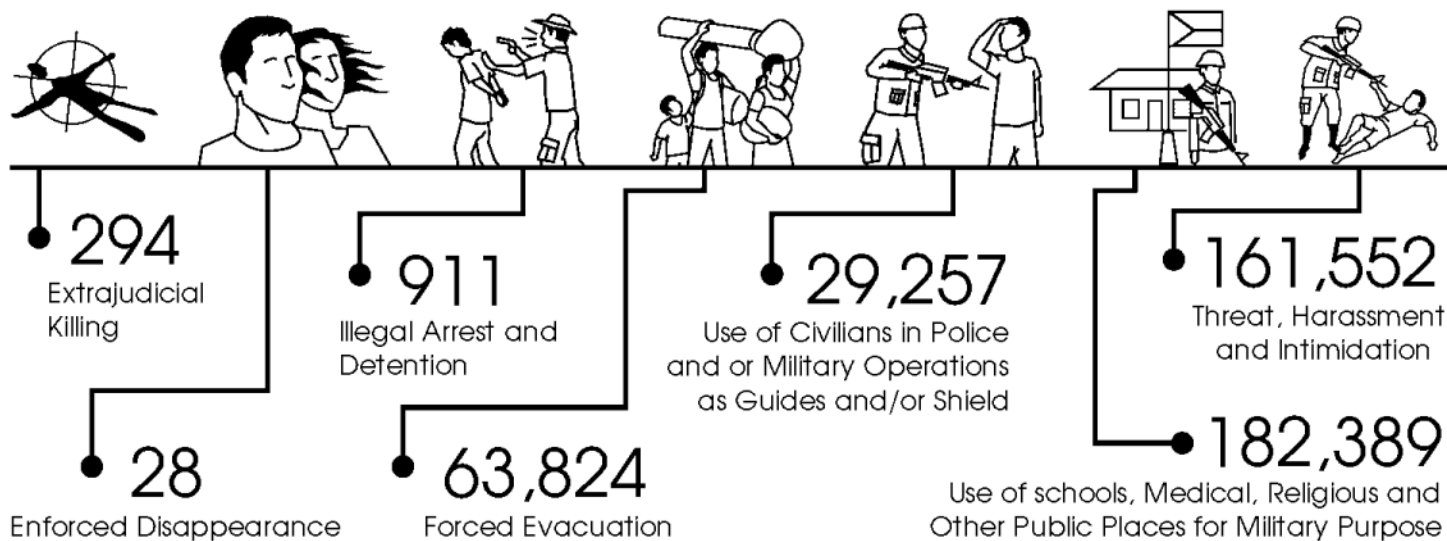
Earlier, a confrontation erupted between the peasants and the company's goons. On November 21, a paid PetroSolar subcontractor hit Florida Sibayan, Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang-Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita's (AMBALA) chairperson.

Peasants from the hacienda have long resisted the TSPP which they deem as the latest scheme to thwart land distribution in Hacienda Luisita to the peasants. The project will cover part of the 500-hectare agricultural land which the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) declared in 2013 as covered by land reform. Despite this, the project was still given the green light with the cooperation of the Department of Energy. The Luisita Realty Corporation and Tarlac Development Corporation, both Cojuangco-Aquino companies, and the Yuchengco's Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, used a DAR decision in 1996 that allowed the land conversion of the area covered by TSPP. The Yuchengco family owns PetroSolar. Conergy, a German firm, is its partner.

The peasants denounced the regime's efforts to disguise land-grabbing with an anomalous "environment-friendly" project. The UMA and AMBALA believe that the construction of the project will give way to massive peasant displacement in the entire hacienda.

Since 2011, the Cojuangco-Aquinos have violently and systematically driven out the peasants from the hacienda. The family, in cahoots with the DAR, has relentlessly implemented maneuvers to disregard the 2011 Supreme Court decision that ordered the distribution of land in the hacienda.

The AMBALA called on all residents in the hacienda to resist the project's promised benefits. "Cheap or free electricity is worthless if the residents are displaced and they lose their livelihood in farming," it said. The TSPP is part of the Luisita Ecozone, a project planned long before by the Cojuangco-Aquinos. **AB**



NPA-Rizal seizes 14 firearms

The New People's Army-Rizal (Narciso Antazo Aramil Command or NAAC) simultaneously raided Ayala Land and Selecta Farms in Barangay Macabud, Rodriguez, Rizal, at around 5:00 a.m. on November 19.

For two hours, a NAAC platoon searched the office and detachment of the companies' armed goons. The Red fighters confiscated 14 firearms (nine rifles and five pistols), ammunition and other military equipment.

According to Macario Liwanag, NAAC spokesperson, "Through violence and deception, Selecta Farms has grabbed 45 hectares while Ayala Land seized 76 hectares. Using armed mercenaries, they continue to expand their landholdings, at the expense of the peasants and residents of the area."

Selecta Farms (now Arce Dairy Products) is owned by the family of Don Mauro Arce, Jose Concepcion's partner in his businesses. Ayala Land, on the other hand, is owned by the Ayala family, a well-known multi-bil-

lionaire clan and big comprador bourgeoisie.

In Bicol. The National-Democratic Front-Bicol issued a report on NPA tactical offensives against the violence unleashed by Oplan Bayanihan in the region.

From April to September, various units in the region launched 43 tactical offensives. In these, 30 enemy soldiers were killed while 13 were wounded. Two firearms, ammunition and other military equipment and documents were also confiscated in these operations.

Prominent among these actions was the two-day coordinated tactical offensives in all provinces of the region. From July 20 to 21, 18 tactical offensives were launched in Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Albay and Masbate. **AB**

NPA releases POW in Misamis Oriental

THE NEW People's Army-North Central Mindanao Region (NPA-NCMR) released prisoner-of-war (POW) Pfc. Adonis Jess Lupiba last November 20 in Barangay Kaulayanan, Sugbongcogon, Misamis Oriental, in accordance with a directive issued by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

Lupiba was under NPA-NCMR's custody for 132 days. He was captured on July 11 in an NPA tactical offensive against 58th IB troops in Barangay Alagatan, Gingoog City.

According to Allan Juanito, NPA-NCMR spokesperson, Lupiba's release is a manifestation of the revolutionary movement's sincerity in its desire for the resumption of the stalled peace negotiations between NDFP and the Government of the Philippines. Lupiba's detention would not have lasted more than four months if not for the relentless military operations to "rescue" him.

Lupiba was received by Misamis Oriental Gov. Yevgeny Vincente Emano and by third party facilitators headed by Iglesia Filipina Independiente Bishop Felixberto Calang before being turned over to the 4th ID based in Cagayan de Oro City. **AB**

US stops jailing of soldier in Muntinlupa through the VFA

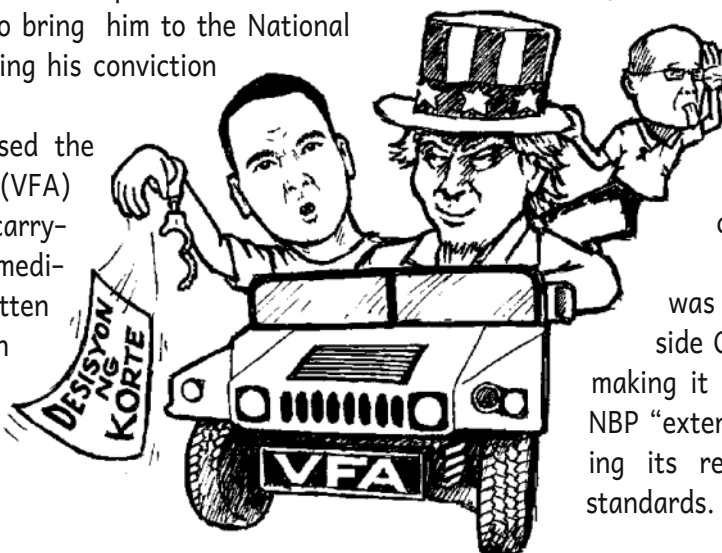
American forces exhibited extreme arrogance when they surrounded US Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton last December 1 to prevent local police officers from carrying out court orders to bring him to the National Bilibid Prison (NBP) following his conviction and sentence.

Pemberton's lawyers used the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) to prevent the court from carrying out its order. They immediately submitted a handwritten motion for reconsideration to delay the process of bringing him to jail and give the Aquino regime time to maneuver.

Faced with this pressure, the court amended its decision to jail Pemberton in the NBP and ordered instead the presentation of the so-called document

in accordance with VFA provisions wherein the governments of the US and the Philippines agreed to Pemberton's detention facility in case he is found guilty.

From the court, Pemberton was brought to the US facility inside Camp Aguinaldo. The regime is making it appear that the facility is an NBP "extension" despite the US overseeing its repairs according to its own standards.



In saving Pemberton from his verdict and giving him special treatment, the regime is once again demonstrating its brazen puppetry to its imperialist US master. On the day of the verdict, the regime openly colluded with the US security forces when it ordered the Department of Justice to return Pemberton to Camp Crame despite being a “national prisoner,” as declared by the court. According to Philippine laws, a criminal sentenced to three or more years in prison should be detained in NBP or any regional prison determined by the court.

Pemberton was found guilty without reasonable doubt of killing Jennifer Laude, a transgender woman, in an Olongapo City hotel in November 15, 2014. He was charged with murder but was convicted of a lesser charge of homicide because the courts overlooked evidences of treachery, use of superior strength and brutality in the method with which the victim was killed. This is despite affirmations that Pemberton choked Laude from behind, dragged her to the bathroom where he pushed her head into the toilet bowl while flushing water. According to the autopsy, Laude died due to asphyxiation by drowning.

The court also took in, as mitigating circumstances, Pemberton’s “anger and disgust” which led him to kill Laude after he discovered the victim was a transgender. This is a blow to all individuals who are vulnerable to hate crimes just because they chose a different sexual

orientation.

As a result, the court gave him a lighter sentence of six to 12 years in prison, a sentence which the victim’s family and supporters regard as insufficient. This was the first case where an American soldier was convicted of a murder charge in the Philippines. The trial took almost a year.

In detaining Pemberton in Camp Aguinaldo, the US clearly has no intention of placing him under Philippine authority. The US has repeatedly used the VFA to protect and whisk home charged and convicted personnel who should have been punished under Philippine laws. As in previous cases, VFA provisions limit the execution of Philippine laws. Similar to the case of Lcpl. Daniel Smith who was convicted of rape in 2005, the US has no qualms over disregarding court orders and detaining their personnel wherever they want. In Smith’s case, he was detained inside the US embassy and whisked home to the US as soon as it was possible.

Protests greeted the court’s conviction of Pemberton’s crime as homicide and saving him from detention in the NBP. On December 1, Bayan held a rally near the Olongapo City court while waiting for a verdict. On December 4, Bayan Muna and other sectors held protests in front of Camp Aguinaldo to demand that the US turn over Pemberton to Philippine custody and that he be detained in the NBP. **AB**

Groups demand wage increase and jobs on Bonifacio Day

The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) spearheaded widespread mobilizations in commemoration of Andres Bonifacio’s 152nd birth anniversary last November 30. They were primarily calling for a P125 increase in daily wage and the scrapping of the labor contractualization policy.

KMU said it will resolutely fight for a P125 wage increase in view of the current level of workers’ incomes being acutely inadequate in providing for the needs of their families. Employees likewise demanded an additional P6,000 in their monthly salaries.

KMU belied Benigno Aquino’s claim of national economic development and “inclusive growth.” According to KMU Secretary General Roger Soluta, workers do not benefit from the supposed progress, and that only a few from the ruling government and big businesses considerably profit from workers and con-

sumers.

The mobilizations were held in various parts of the country. In Manila, hundreds of marchers demanded the scrapping of agreements forged in the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit. A stop to the privatization of public hospitals was likewise demanded.

In Cebu City, employees from the Cebu Puericulture Center and Maternity House, Inc. staged a protest against

the hospital’s intransigence regarding calls for wage increases. The Alliance of Concerned Teachers also demanded that monthly salaries for Teacher 1 be raised to P25,000, and those belonging to Salary Grade 1 be compensated P16,000. Meanwhile, the Kabataan Partylist pushed for higher subsidies for state colleges and universities. The Swedish Municipal Workers’ Union manifested their solidarity with the protesters.

In Negros Occidental, members of Makabayan Coalition gathered at Bacolod Plaza



for a protest mobilization after having convened their provincial assembly at the provincial multi-purpose center.

In Cagayan de Oro City, the protest action was held at the Bonifacio Monument in Divisoria where hundreds of activists gathered and held a program. Massive rallies were also carried out in the cities of Davao and Cotabato.

The people's struggle for wage increases is firmly advanced in the face of the continuous refusal by past regimes to grant just wages. KMU also criticized Aquino's opposition to the proposed income tax exemption for those earning only P33,000 per month.

As the mobilizations concluded, KMU stated that workers have nothing to expect from a government that does not serve the people. Soluta declared that they will determinedly continue Bonifacio's fight for a just and free society.

2015 SSL criticized

Meanwhile, teachers and government employees criticized Malacañang's enactment of the Salary Standardization Law of 2015. According to them, the law favors the insatiable high government officials while being tightfisted towards ordinary employees.

The said law provides for an increase in 33 salary grades for employees in a span of four years. Those belonging to the lowest salary grade (SG1) will receive a 23% increase in salary from P9,000 to P11,068 while those in SG11 (teachers and nurses) will be given a 12% raise from P18,549 to P20,754. These salary increases amount to only P24 per day, or equivalent to P480 per month, a far cry from the public sector's demand of P16,000 for SG1, and P25,000 for teachers and nurses. This is much less than the necessary daily wage of P750, or P33,000 per month, in order for a family of five members to be able to live decently.

On the other hand, the SSL of 2015 swells the president's salary by 223% from P120,000 to P268,096. Legislators, cabinet members, and Supreme Court justices will also enjoy an increase of 186% from P90,000 to P257,809. The law takes effect on January 2016. **AB**

Election rivalry intensifies

Political rivalries over the upcoming elections are increasingly becoming intense and crisis-ridden. The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has decided to cancel the certificate of candidacy (COC) of Sen. Grace Poe, one of the leading contenders and rival of the regime's favored Mar Roxas. Meanwhile, the filtering of voters through biometrics utilizing pictures and fingerprints was disregarded.

On the other hand, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte of Davao City has formally declared his intention to run for president after vacillating for several months. Duterte filed his candidacy for president last December 2 as a replacement candidate for the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Laban (PDP-Laban).

Regime maneuvers to disqualify Poe

On the December 1, the Comelec's second division cancelled Grace Poe's COC to participate in the election due allegedly to her inability to fulfill requirements mandated by the 1987 constitution both for not being a "natural-born" Filipino and for her failure to meet residency requirements before the May 2016 election.

The decision favored the petition filed by lawyer Estrella Elamparo stating that Poe runs short of the required 10 years residency in the country. It also favored the view that Poe is not "natural born" since she is a foundling and that her biological parents could not be traced. Poe is scheduled to appeal the decision with the Comelec en banc. Additionally, Poe is facing other petitions for her disqualification. Her appeals are expected to reach the Supreme Court.

The COC cancellation is believed to be part of the maneuvers of the Roxas camp to disqualify his opponents one by one through various loopholes and technicalities. Bayan condemned Roxas for this "systematic elimination" using

state resources to ensure his victory.

Poe, supported and criticized

The Makabayan coalition released a declaration of support for the candidacy of Grace Poe and Francis Escudero as president and vice president last November 5. Along with the declaration, a platform entitled "Tugon sa mga Hinaing at Mithiin ng Bayan Para sa Pagbabago at Pag-unlad ng Mamamayan" (Response to the People's Demands and Aspirations for People's Change and Development), that was jointly signed by Poe and Escudero and the representatives of Makabayan, was also made public.

According to Makabayan, they support Poe and Escudero due to their "commitment to a platform standing for relevant socio-economic and political reforms; outstanding record in public service; and openness in cooperating with progressive forces."

Among these are the response to the land problem, recognition of indigenous people's rights and support to an independent foreign policy.

"While many points in our platform are common, we recognize that there are points of contention with them," Makabayan added.

Last November 28, independent group Ibon Foundation criticized Poe's economic platform as it "will only duplicate the crises brought on the country by the policies under President Aquino's administration."

Ibon criticized Poe's support for charter change or "cha-cha" as it "will prevent development-oriented policy-making and correspondingly make it even more difficult to resolve the country's chronic unemployment and poverty." Ibon termed as "bothering" Poe's inclination to open protected sectors to foreign capital and ownership. According to Ibon, there is nothing new with these measures and she will just be a mere continuation of President Aquino. Ibon also criticized Poe's recently announced roster of economic advisers who are inclined toward the thrust of globalization and the "free market."

Duterte, praised and criticized

On the other hand, the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) praised Duterte in pointing out that contractual employment makes it difficult for workers to sustain their families' needs and destroys the country's workforce. According to Elmer Labog, KMU chair, "we are glad that Duterte has taken a pro-worker stand on one of the most important workers' issues."

"It's not enough that presidential candidates talk about measures that will supposedly bring about economic development," he added. "At a time when the economy's so-called inclusive growth only



means increased profits for the few, candidates should talk about concrete measures that will improve the lives of workers and the poor."

Meanwhile, the Gabriela Women's Party (GWP) slammed Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, saying "womanizing and flaunting is an affront to women." GWP issued the statement after Duterte admitted that he has not only two wives but two girlfriends as well. "This reeks of machismo, reinforces the society's low regard of women and consequently increases women's vulnerability..." Rep. Emmie de Jesus of GWP said.

Gabriela "urged Duterte and other candidates to delve into platforms and discuss women's and people's issues rather than employ derogatory statements and actions that malign women." On the other hand, Gabriela-Davao recognized Duterte's support to women's issues.

Biometrics trashed

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court temporarily suspended the use of the biometrics system based on the position filed by the Kabataan Partylist (KPL). KPL filed the petition due to an estimated three million new and old voters that are disenfranchised due only to their inability to register for the biometrics. The Comelec closed the registration for biometrics last October 31. **AB**

Foreign sales bloat US arms industry

The US is raking enormous benefits from territorial tensions it instigated in Asia and Europe, as well as from the existence of groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Asia (ISIS or IS) and their terrorist activities in different parts of the globe. These create markets for additional arms in regions where tension and disorder reign, thus boosting trade for the biggest arms manufacturers which are mainly based in the US.

According to the Pentagon itself, US foreign military arms sales to more than 100 countries went up by 36% or \$46.6 billion this 2015. This is a big turnaround from low profits which have bothered these US companies in the past. Seven of the 10 biggest arms companies are from the US. Leading the pack is Lockheed Martin, followed by Boeing. Also among the biggest are Raytheon, Northrop Grumman,



General Dynamics, United Technologies and L-3 Communications.

Around a third or 30% of their annual sales are to allied countries. According to defense experts, US arms sales will continue to go up as proxy wars, regional conflicts and attacks and counter-attacks against terrorist groups continue.

The US takes up more than a third (37%) of all arms expenses in the world, or by \$640 billion in 2013. This is more than the combined expenses of the next 14 countries, including

China and Russia. It is also the biggest arms exporter in the world, 29% in total sales in 2009-2013 and 43% in 2014.

In the Middle East, ISIS attacks and counter-attacks, as well as the US-instigated fear of Iran's nuclear arms, led to massive purchases. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, for instance, spent \$9 billion for Patriot missiles alone. Iraq, on the other hand, has bought from General Dynamics \$2.4 billion worth of tanks and \$4.8 billion for helicopters for its fight against IS-IS. Saudi Arabia spent a total of \$80 billion for new arms while UAE spent \$23 billion.

In Europe, the US is assiduously selling arms to countries involved in its conflict with Russia. Estonia, Norway, Poland and almost all European countries have bought missiles and defense systems from Raytheon. These purchases added almost an estimated \$10 billion to US companies' total sales for the year.

In Asia, US companies' arms sales went up by \$14 billion this year. Foremost is South Korea's spending more than \$11 billion to upgrade its fighter jets amidst escalating tension with North Korea. Japan is also set to purchase dozens of jetfighters in response to intensified tensions with China. Meanwhile, Indonesia has spent millions of dollars in the bid to "modernize" its air and sea forces. Only this year, India bought helicopters from Boeing worth \$3 billion. India is the second biggest arms buyer from the US, next to Saudi Arabia. Taiwan and Singapore are fourth and fifth, respectively.

In the Philippines, the US-Aquino regime has accelerated arms acquisitions from the US using the South China Sea tensions. Last November 25, two FA-50s arrived in the country, the first of the 12 jetfighters worth \$35 million apiece that it has ordered from Korean Aerospace Industries, a Lockheed Martin partner company.

Earlier, the Philippines spent \$15 billion to repair a Hamilton-class cutter previously owned by the US and now known as the BRP Gregorio del Pilar. Consequently, the country paid \$61 million for a US-transferred C-130 and related equipment, parts, training and logistical support. These are in addition to other obsolete military materiel the US and its allies had "transferred" to country in "reduced prices." Among these are two transport ships from Australia, eight Bell-214EP helicopters from Canada and US and another two attack helicopters from the US.

The Aquino regime has allocated more than \$920 million for the purchase of obsolete weapons from 2010 to 2014, double of what the US-Arroyo regime spent during its 10-year rule. The process of acquiring these old and malfunctioning military equipment, which are highly prone to accidents, is riddled with anomalies and cases of corruption by high-ranking military officials. Only last November 6, a Bell UH-1D helicopter crashed while on a rescue mission for soldiers ambushed by the NPA in Sarangani. The said helicopter, which is an obsolete 1963 model, is

one of 21 the AFP bought from US and Canada amounting to P1.2 billion.

Despite this, the regime announced on November 30 an expenditure program worth P44 billion for additional weapons for the next seven years. The acquisition list includes two ships, eight amphibious assault vehicles, three anti-submarine helicopters, two long-range patrol aircrafts, three aerial radars and munitions for jetfighters and close-support planes.

The regime has offered supply contracts to the US' biggest companies such as Lockheed Martin and Textron, as well as France's Thales, Sweden's Saab and the UK's Airbus military division. Among such contracts is for six close-air-support aircraft (bomber planes used as support to ground troops) worth \$114 million.

Despite having a smaller budget for military expenditures compared to other nations, arms companies still consider the Philippines as an important market due to the upcoming return of the US military bases to the country under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement. AB

BIGGEST ARMS EXPORTERS, 2014	BIGGEST ARMS IMPORTERS, 2014
US: \$10.2 billion	Saudi Arabia: \$2.6 billion
Russia: \$6 billion	India: \$1.5 billion
China: \$2 billion	China: \$1.3 billion
France: \$1.2 billion	Indonesia: \$1.2 billion
Germany: \$1.1 billion	Vietnam: \$1.05 billion
UK: \$1.08 billion	Taiwan: \$1.03 billion
Israel: \$1.07 billion	UAE: \$1.03 billion
Spain: \$800 million	Australia: \$842 million

Data from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Protesters condemn climate change conference

Hundreds of thousands marched and held protests alongside the conference on climate change being held in Paris, France. The 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) opened last November 30 and will last up to December 11. The International League of People's Struggles (ILPS) castigated the conference as impotent as it fails to satisfy the long-standing demands of the peoples of the world for climate justice and social justice.

International protests

Some 2,100 protest events, including 51 marches, took place before and simultaneous with the COP21. In Paris itself, which has banned all forms of protests or even the clustering of individuals after the terrorist attack on the city, a silent protest of 600 artists was held wherein their works attacking what they called "greenwashing" of the climate change talks in the conference were exhibited over signages of known polluters.

Last November 29, some 200 masked protesters marched in the Paris streets. A human chain was also formed by 4,500 citizens even as the police banned such assemblies in the face of the declared "state of emergency" in the whole city. Some 11,000 pairs of shoes were lined up in the well-known Place de la Republique in what was termed as a "Shoe March" to represent the activists not allowed to protest due to the ban.

In Australia, 130,000 held rallies as part of the worldwide Global Climate March, one of the largest protests over the climate change ever made in history. Some 45,000 participated in Sydney, Australia, in the largest gathering ever in the city.

In Brisbane, 5,000 people, mostly indigenous Aborigines, marched in opposition against plans to develop more of Australia's vast coal deposits.

Some 50,000 also participated in a march in London from Hyde Park to Whitehall, the government district of the United Kingdom,

wherein artists and opposition leaders of parliament also attended. Marchers also reached 10,000 in Berlin and 20,000 in Madrid.

In the Philippines, church workers, indigenous people and activist members of the Kalikasan People's Network converged at Plaza Rajah Sulayman in Manila to hold a Climate Solidarity Prayer last November 29. Carrying placards calling for a ban on coal-fired plants and coal mining by foreign corporations, the marchers prayed, sang and performed.

Impotent conference

According to Jose Ma. Sison, ILPS chair, since the UNFCCC was signed in 1992 and went into force three years after, little has changed with the pledges made by the most industrialized countries to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (GHG). GHG are gases

that cannot escape and thus trap heat in the atmosphere. The US accounts for 27% of the cumulative GHG emissions between 1850 and 2011, while 25% were created by countries forming the European Union. GHG emissions computed per person also show that the biggest per-capita emitters are the highly-industrialized countries led by Canada, US, Russia, Japan and the EU followed by a few large and fast-developing countries such as China, Brazil, Indonesia, India and Mexico.

Rising global average temperatures as the direct result of high GHG levels, have resulted in the year 2014 as the hottest year on record since 1890. Ice cover in the Arctic and Antarctica has been shrinking, resulting in sea level increases leaping to an annual average of 3.3 millimeter.

Consequently, changes in the ecosystem balance and weather patterns have resulted in extended droughts, super-cyclones, record-breaking rainfall and snowfall, extensive floods, inundation of low-lying coasts, landslides and other geohazards.

Neoliberal policies contributed to worsening climate change. These and imperialist globalization have opened up all countries and all ecosystem types to the unabated entry,



control and plunder of natural, human, economic and financial resources by monopoly capitalist giants.

“In the pursuit of superprofits, the monopoly capitalists ruthlessly plunder forests, minerals, energy reserves, freshwater supplies, agricultural lands and marine areas. In areas already depleted of natural resources, they set up enclaves of sweatshop factories, playground resorts of the rich, and dumping grounds for their toxic wastes,” said Sison.

Sison blasted the countries producing the highest GHG emission for undermining pledges made in the past such as the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC made in 1997. Utilizing loopholes under various mechanisms, the biggest GHG emitters evaded penalties by investing in repackaged sources of energy touted as “clean energy”.

Dirty and discredited sources of energy such as big dams, nuclear power and biofuels are being aggressively repackaged as clean and renewable sources. Imperialism also continues to expand the fossil fuel industry through the most destructive and violent means, such as widespread fracking, arctic and deep sea drilling, and laying down of new pipelines in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The ILPS joins the rest of the world’s peoples, social movements and organizations in calling for a higher level of global climate action not tied to any new protocol that will come out of COP21.

“The struggle for climate justice and social justice and against imperialism is ultimately for the

world’s peoples to establish an alternative social system that is centered on the emancipation of the billions of toiling masses, and national liberation for countries long oppressed by the neocolonial system,” Sison added.

Aquino's hypocritical participation

Meanwhile, Aquino attended the COP21 as one among 140 leaders who each delivered three-minute speeches. While pleading for additional aid due to the effects of climate change, Aquino defends the Philippine's unimpaired use and expansion of dirty energy such as coal-fired power plants.

From 2010, Aquino approved the building of 28 coal-fired plants for the next three years and an additional 32 up to the year 2020. These are in addition to existing coal-fired plants. Among these are the plants to be operated by San

Miguel Corporation (SMC) in Mindanao owned by Aquino's uncle Eduardo Cojuangco. SMC also operates a coal-fired plant in Sual, Pangasinan as well as the largest hydropower dam in the country, the San Roque dam in Agno River.

Coal-fired plants are the dirtiest source of energy, thus Aquino's promise to reduce the country's carbon emission by 70% from 2020 up to 2030 is an empty boast.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, a coal-fired plant with a capacity of 600 MW creates 3.5 million tons of carbon dioxide a year. The current capacity of all operating coal-fired plants in the country is 5,677 MW with an additional 4,000 MW when the new plants become operational in the coming years. This means an additional 60 million tons of carbon dioxide to be released to the air annually, which will add to the atmosphere's greenhouse gasses. **AB**

Protests erupt over assassination of pro-Kurdish lawyer in Turkey

THOUSANDS of people in Istanbul, Ankara and other major Turkish cities launched protests on November 29 to condemn the assassination of Tahir Elci, a well-known defender of human rights and the interests of the Kurdish minority.

Elci was shot on November 28 while speaking in a press conference in a historical mosque in the city of Diyarbakir, southeastern Turkey.

Elci was a staunch critic of the Turkish government's suppression of the Kurdish minority. He condemned the government crackdown on areas controlled by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) since July. The government imposed curfews on whole communities while state security forces are engaging Kurdish warriors under PKK.

Elci stressed that PKK should not be called a terrorist organization, contrary to the stand of the Turkish and US governments, and the European Union. Five days later, Elci was arrested for allegedly spreading “terrorist propaganda.” **AB**