

LIBERATION

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MORE VICTORIES AHEAD

Masses hail 47th anniversary of the New People's Army



By Isah Antonio

The New People's Army (NPA) together with its beloved masses celebrated nationwide the 47th anniversary of its founding last March 29 amid fresh victories gained in the past year (see side story on this page).

The Regional Committees of the Communist Party of the Philippines from Southern Tagalog, Panay, North Central Mindanao, Southern Mindanao and North Eastern Mindanao issued statements congratulating the NPA for courageously and honorably fulfilling its duty as the principal weapon of the people in carrying out the new democratic revolution against the imperialists, the comprador-landlords, big bourgeoisie and the corrupt bureaucrat capitalists that exploit and oppress the Filipino people.

People's army defeats regime's 'counterinsurgency' plan

By Ed Ladera

By launching victorious tactical offensives and undertaking programs beneficial to the people, the New People's Army (NPA) has put the nail in the coffin of the Aquino regime's counterinsurgency plan, the so-called Oplan Bayanihan.

Closely patterned after the *US Government Counterinsurgency Guide of 2009*, Oplan Bayanihan was implemented upon Benigno Simeon Aquino III's assumption of the Philippine presidency on June 30, 2010.

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NPA MARKS 47th ANNIVERSARY

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Despite several counterrevolutionary military and psywar operations that the US and different regimes of the ruling classes and their subalterns have unleashed upon the NPA, the people's army has withstood every operation and defended the people and the gains of the revolution. The NPA has continued to grow much bigger with better trained and armed Red fighters than ever before.

The units of the NPA now operate in several scores of guerrilla fronts covering substantial areas of more than 71 provinces in hundreds of municipalities and thousands of barangays. They cover 80 percent of Philippine territory and have the support of millions of people in mass organizations under the governance of the revolutionary organs of democratic political power.

Fertile ground for revolution

The economic crisis is worsening and causing grave hardship on the people with the ruling classes led by US imperialism intensifying exploitation and oppression, state terrorism and militarization.

Even as the US-Aquino regime trumpets the Philippine economic growth that supposedly would soon bring the Philippines into a first-world-country status, nobody can deny the fact that the so-called growth and development is a big lie concocted by the ruling elite.

The people know the truth for they are suffering from low wages, high unemployment, soaring prices of basic goods and services,

corruption, landlessness, landgrabbing, demolition, military and police brutality and grave human rights violations. On the other hand, the instruments of the state protect the interests of the compradors, landlords and big business, multinational corporations and foreign monopoly capitalists.

The poverty rate continues to increase with 66 million Filipinos living in abject poverty with an income of less than 125 pesos (US \$2.65) a day. What props the economy is the remittance coming from overseas workers now numbering 12

million or 20 percent of the country's total labor force. Yet, the reactionary government is inutile when it comes to upholding the interest of the overseas Filipino workers who are often victims of exploitation by recruitment agencies, heavy exaction by government agencies, oppression and abuse by employers. The families they left behind suffer the social consequences of migration.

In a semifeudal and semicolonial Philippines suffering from acute and chronic economic, social and political crisis, there is fertile ground for the NPA to gain more strength and advance further the people's war by intensifying its tactical offensives.

The victories achieved through tactical offensives and other military operations launched by the guerrilla fighters and the people's militias against enemy troops have crushed the ambition of the enemy to destroy the revolutionary movement. Every operation hatched by tacticians and strategists of the enemy has failed in the face of the advancing



the people's war. The Red fighters and their commanders have dealt heavy and deadly blows during encounters in offensive and defensive battles against the well-armed and better-equipped troops of the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP) and the paramilitary.

The New People's Army has attained victories because it has the wide and deep support of the Filipino people. Although the main task of the NPA is to fight and defeat the enemy, its Red fighters also undertake mass organizing and mass campaigns for genuine land reform, production, health and sanitation, literacy, cultural work, information work, training for self-defense and settling of



disputes among

These victories are also the result of the Party ensuring that the NPA abides by the correct political line of the revolution and adheres to strong discipline in its boundless service to and defense of the people's interest and well-being.

In its message commemorating the NPA's 47th founding anniversary, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines laid down the following fighting tasks of the NPA:

1. Uphold the Filipino people's national sovereignty and Philippine territorial integrity.

2. Disable and dismantle

enterprises that violate economic sovereignty and national patrimony.

3. Defend democracy and take actions against human rights

violators.

4. Carry out land reform as the main content of the democratic revolution.

5. Integrate the armed struggle with agrarian revolution and persevere in guerrilla warfare.

6. Develop coordinated and synchronized offensives at the national and regional levels of command.

7. Contribute to the development of a national, scientific and mass culture.

8. Defend the right of national minorities to self-determination, ancestral domain and cultural identity.

9. Gain the support of overseas Filipinos for the New People's Army and people's war.

10. Support the worldwide anti-imperialist struggle of the people of the world and seek their support for the Philippine revolution

As the people's army celebrates its 47th anniversary, it is ever ready to face the challenges of advancing the people's democratic revolution to a higher stage. ■

NAIL IN THE COFFIN

The cherished army of the people defeats US-Aquino regime's 'counterinsurgency' plan

◀ page 1

Oplan Bayanihan boasted of defeating the New People's Army or rendering it inconsequential by 2013. Having failed in this objective, the US-Aquino regime escalated its drive by increasing the combat battalions of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and paramilitary forces.

With the participation and vigorous support of the people, especially the toiling masses of peasants and workers, and also of the youth, women, indigenous peoples and other sectors of the people, the NPA launched numerous tactical offensives to frustrate the enemy's triad concept of combat, intelligence and civil-military operations.

In 46 guerrilla fronts in Mindanao, more than 500 tactical offensives launched by the NPA

By the time of the NPA's 47th founding anniversary on March 27, 2016, the people's army had launched more than 500 tactical offensives in the 46 guerrilla fronts in Mindanao. NPA operations in other areas of the Philippines signalled the growth of the NPA, its militant support from the people and the consequent utter failure of Oplan Bayanihan.

In desperation, the Aquino regime and its military, police and paramilitary forces perpetrated large-scale violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. They



killed numerous civilians, peasants, workers, indigenous people such as the *lumad* in Mindanao, caused the uprooting of many thousands of refugees, and destroyed and occupied people's schools and other public institutions. But instead of instilling fear

among the people, these only aroused the mounting militant resistance of the people and their supporters.

19 coordinated NPA offensives on Feb. 25 in North Eastern Mindanao

All over the country, in scores of guerrilla fronts, the New People's Army intensified its armed struggle against the US-Aquino regime and its military, police and paramilitary forces. The signal to destroy all false claims of the regime that its Oplan Bayanihan was successful and the NPA was declining, came from the NPA in Northeastern Mindanao, comprising mainly the four provinces of Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur, when Red fighters launched 19 coordinated tactical offensives in one day, on Feb. 25, 2016.

Starting at midnight, the first minute of Feb. 25 up to 10:00 a.m. of the same date, the NPA in Northeastern Mindanao (NEMR) launched the 19 tactical offensives. The AFP with its eight battalions and the PNP with two maneuver battalions along with Cagfu (Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units) and other paramilitary units were caught by surprise.

These coordinated NPA attacks were launched against Army-Cafgu camps and AFP troops that were bombing and launching psychological warfare operations they called “community operations for peace and development” (COPD).

In the whole month of February, the NPA in NEMR engaged the regime's troops in a total of 40 clashes. These resulted in the death of 19 soldiers and the wounding of eight, with additional casualties not reported by the regime's troops. Three guerrilla fighters were martyred and three others wounded.

The NPA in Mindanao now operates in more than 2,500 barrios or villages, increasing from 1,850 at the start of the Aquino regime in 2010. These 2,500 barrios cover more than 200 municipalities in 20 provinces in the whole of Mindanao. The population influenced by the revolution increased to several millions, wherein 200,000 are directly organized.

People's militia units in barrios and communities, which are the direct reserved forces of fulltime NPA units, have grown by the thousands. Many among them directly participate in military actions. They have also been mobilized in intelligence work, transport of supply, and other military support to the fulltime units of the NPA.

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In the Bicol region in Southern Luzon, the NPA launched 50 tactical offensives

Maria Roja Banua, spokesperson of



the National Democratic Front of the Philippines-Bicol announced that from January to March 2016, the NPA in Masbate, Camarines Sur, Albay and Sorsogon carried out 50 tactical offensives against various armed units of the regime. The objective of these attacks was to stress the importance of revolutionary armed struggle especially during the period of reactionary elections. The revolutionary forces in Bicol want to reaffirm the basic principle that the people's aim of fundamental social change can only be attained through revolutionary struggle, principally revolutionary armed struggle supported by the broad masses.

Among the many NPA offensives, with the use of command-detonated explosives, was the Jan. 24 attack by the Nerissa San Juan Command in Catanduanes against the PNP Public Safety Company, resulting in 10 enemy soldiers killed. In Camarines Sur on Feb. 9, the Norben Gruta Command of the NPA launched an action against the regime's forces causing the death of three soldiers. On March 15, the NPA launched 12 coordinated actions in Masbate. On March 19, in Gubat, Sorsogon the NPA Celso Minguez Command attacked the 31st IB, causing the death of five soldiers and the wounding of three more.

Hundreds of thousand benefit from land reform gains, other people's victories

Mass support for the NPA has become ever stronger given that part of its central task is to wage genuine agrarian reform in the countryside. Victories in terms of land reform, benefitting hundreds of thousands of peasants and agricultural workers have been achieved in

the rural areas at varying levels and coverage in each of the five regions in Mindanao. The struggles were in the forms of reduction of land rent and rent for the use of farm implements, reduction of usury, increase in wages, and increase in the price of

agricultural products. Medical services were also provided by NPA medical teams which are deeply appreciated by the people in the rural areas who are deprived of health service by the reactionary government. Cultural campaigns have also been launched.

In North Central Mindanao, which includes the area of Bukidnon, the NPA launched scores of antifeudal struggles, majority of which were carried out in intercluster of barrios. More than 150,000 peasants and their families have benefited from the increase of wages of farmworkers, in bringing down the payment for rice and corn mills, in raising the prices of their farm produce, in attaining potable drinking water, in resisting the health-hazard operations of mechanical dryers, and in raising the share of rice field maintainers.

The spokesperson of the Communist Party in North Central Mindanao said that despite the increasing support from the people, the peasants are still suffering from several “unsettled” problems such as landlessness, displacement of peasants from their communities, and proliferation of imperialist seeds damaging environment-friendly insects and traditional seeds.

He also said that the NPA registered a steady increase in members, rifles and offensive operations. A 19-percent increase in the number of full-time guerrillas, 29-percent increase in the number of new platoons, and 23-percent increase in high-powered rifles were reported.

They have launched 132 different types of military actions resulting in 36 assorted firearms seized, including two K3 light-machine guns.

Warning against use of toxic aerial spray

One important service to the people in the rural areas is the NPA's firm opposition to the use of toxic aerial spray which causes serious damage to the workers, residents and the environment. The spokesperson of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines-Northeastern Mindanao, Maria Malaya, sternly warned on Feb. 11, 2016 the owners of large banana plantations in Surigao and Agusan provinces to stop the use of toxic aerial spray.

Thousands of families live on the peripheries of Del Monte and SumiFru plantations. Many of

them suffer from lung and skin diseases because of the chemicals which they cannot avoid breathing and get on their skins due to the aerial spray. Coconut, banana and other fruit trees are dying due to the chemicals. Sources of water for bathing and drinking water for animals have become hazardous.

Malaya warned contractors and pilots of the aerial-spray aircrafts to stop, otherwise the NPA will shoot down the aircraft to protect the people and the environment.

NPA tactical offensives in other areas

In Kalinga, Cordillera, on Jan. 27, three soldiers were killed in an encounter between the regime's troops and the NPA fighters of the Ilocos Cordillera Region.

In an NPA ambush in Baggao, Cagayan Province in Northern Luzon on Feb. 16, six officers of the Regional Public Safety Battalion were killed. Wounded were Senior Inspectors Arnel Acain and Clan Cabansi and 13 other policemen. Senior Inspector Acain and 10 other wounded police officers were airlifted to the Dr. Ronald Guzman Medical Center in Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City.

Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Senen Sarmiento and Philippine National Police Director General Ricardo Marquez flew to Cagayan the following day. The commander of the 502nd Brigade of the Philippine Army fielded troops from the 17th Infantry Battalion to reinforce the beleaguered police troops.

On Feb. 18, in Negros Occidental at Barangay Caningay, Candoni, the NPA launched a military operation that resulted in the killing of two policemen and wounding of five more.

On Feb. 20, in Capiz, Panay, the home province of presidential candidate Mar Roxas, the NPA attacked troops of the 51st Infantry Battalion, causing the death of one soldier.

The New People's Army will continue to frustrate any counterrevolutionary operations that the reactionary regime and its army will launch against the people's army because the Red fighters have the support of the Filipino people. ■

WOMEN, RISE AND OPPOSE NEOLIBERALISM!

[The following are excerpts from the editorial of the March 7, 2016 issue of Ang Bayan (The People), the official publication of the Communist Party of the Philippines.]



March 8 is commemorated throughout the world to pay tribute to women's role in society and struggle. International Working Women's Day was first declared in 1911 by socialist parties. This was a call for women's militant struggle, together with the toiling masses, against imperialist exploitation and oppression for a large part of the past century. But for the past three decades, neoliberal globalization has dismantled whatever victories the toiling masses and women may have gained in their century-long struggle for rights against the capitalist system. This is none other than the intensified and more unrestricted extraction of imperialist superprofit from the world's toiling masses, especially in the backward countries.

It has imposed policies of liberalization, privatization, deregulation and denationalization, plunging the country further into crisis and the toiling masses into poverty and oppression. It implemented the policy of cutting down subsidies for social services and exposed vulnerable sectors, including women, to difficulties and peril. The hardships unleashed by imperialist globalization's attacks are borne both by women and men. But women take on greater onus than men because they are subject to discrimination due to their low status in society.

At home, they are expected to take care of the children and elderly relatives who no longer have the capacity to work. This burden has become heavier since the reactionary

government turned its back on social services. In addition to their assigned roles within the home, they also have to work outside to augment their husband's or father's dwindling income.

Neoliberal globalization focuses distinctly on demolishing the worker's movement. Contractualization and various forms of labor flexibility are extended to depress wages, extend working hours, cut down benefits, and employ the most inhuman labor practices in the workplace. Trade unions are targeted for demolition to block workers' struggles.

The vast majority of contractualization victims are women, more so during the height of the financial crisis. They are the first to be fired and the last to be hired. They endure the lowest wages, absence of benefits, lack of social protection and increasing job insecurity.

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Women's membership in trade unions is decreasing. In 1996, women comprised 59 percent of union members but by 2007, membership has gone down to 34.2 percent. About 80 percent of almost one million workers in export processing zones are women, especially in the electronics subsector. These places forbid trade unions and workers' strikes. Thus, women cannot struggle for protection against sexual harassment and assault, and for women's health concerns. They are even subjected by the capitalists and their minions to the practice of "lay down or lay off."

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More women join the ranks of the semiproletariat as they are the most willing to

take on low-quality employment in order to ensure their families' survival. They make up more than half of all employed women. They have no protection or benefits, and are worst hit by the privatization of social services.

Peasant women are impoverished by expanding landlessness. Thousands of hectares of agricultural lands are converted into subdivisions, export processing zones, resorts, plantations, logging and mining areas. While devastating the environment, monopoly capitalists raise farm input prices and intentionally lower prices of agricultural products, particularly staple crops such as rice and corn. Food becomes scarce and markets are swamped with cheaper imported agricultural products.

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The lack of jobs within the country forces women to seek employment overseas. More than half of documented migrant workers in 2014 are women. Around 83% of low or unskilled workers and 56% of service workers are women. They are the lowest paid and most vulnerable to abuse.

In the whole world, millions of women fall prey to trafficking for prostitution and slave labor, including thousands of Filipino women. Instead of giving them protection, the reactionary government, in cahoots with the imperialists, acts as pimp to share in the income from whatever kind of job may befall the women.

Schools, mass media and social media continue to treat women as commodities and objects for pleasure. Government agencies and their adherents in the academe boast that women have achieved equality just because there are supposedly more literate women and they now hold high government or corporate positions. There are purportedly no more reasons for women's organized protest. Imperialism and its puppet states are removing the revolutionary and militant spirit from Women's Day and turning it into a simple day of praises or parades much like the commercialized Valentine's or Mother's Day.

In fact, due to the neoliberal privatization policy, the US-Aquino regime denies the most basic social services such as women's health care. In the name of reducing maternal

mortality, women are forbidden to give birth at home to require them to go to expensive birthing centers. The truth is that more mothers and infants die during childbirth from complications caused by poverty-related health problems.

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The government is doing nothing to protect women from violence. Its own organs of power such as the police, military, paramilitary, tourism and employment agencies, embassies abroad and prisons are the most zealous violators of women, especially women who have been driven by poverty into desperate straits.

The oppression of women will worsen further in the face of intensified military intervention by US imperialism. This includes the return of US military bases in the Philippines under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement which is strongly opposed by women because this will worsen widespread prostitution and other hellish oppression by US troops on Filipino women. Related to this is the present US-designed and imposed war under Oplan Bayanihan. In the military's attacks within this campaign, thousands of women have been killed, imprisoned, tortured and raped, widowed, orphaned, and forced out of their homes.

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The imperialist distortion and deception about the situation and role of women today must be exposed. Develop the broadest participation of toiling women in the national-democratic movement in their home front and in different countries. Unceasingly fight against all forms of destruction by Oplan Bayanihan. Fight against the despicable crimes perpetrated against the people by bureaucrat-capitalists and military officers.

Women workers are more than able to initiate or participate in organizing and developing unions in the factories and lines of work. They are also more than able to initiate or help in setting up comprehensive organizations in their community and form women's chapters or carry out projects such as day care centers, clinics and cooperatives.

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VOICE AND SYMBOL OF THE REVOLUTION

Gregorio 'Ka Roger' Rosal honored, laid to rest

By Ed Ladera

In a militant and colorful march on March 27, 2016 through main avenues leading to the University of the Philippines (UP), with banners of the New People's Army (NPA) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), thousands of youth and other participants accompanied the remains of Gregorio Rosal to celebrate his life.



the mass movement in the most simple and effective manner, understandable to the masses. He was beloved by the masses. He was a favorite of the media people who took up all kinds of issues with him. Media persons would hike many hours in the mountains in order to interview him. Famous and popular personalities in radio soap operas loved to sing with him.

The marchers sang revolutionary songs and shouted resounding calls such as “Mabuhay si Ka Roger! Mabuhay ang Bagong Hukbong Bayan! Mabuhay ang NDFP!” (“Long live Comrade Roger! Long live the New People’s Army! Long live the National Democratic Front of the Philippines!”).

Ka Roger died on June 22, 2011 due to a lingering illness and it was only last March 31 that his remains were brought to his hometown in Ibaan, Batangas, a province south of Manila.

At the tribute titled “Ka Roger: A Legacy of the People’s Struggle for a Just and Lasting Peace” held at the UP Theater, his sister, media personalities who knew him and veteran activists who worked with him like Tata Pido, took turns in rendering tribute to Roger as a youth activist of the Kabataang Makabayan (KM, Patriotic Youth), a political prisoner, an outstanding NPA commander and CPP spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

For many years, Ka Roger was the voice, the image and symbol of the Philippine revolution. Immersed in the masses from whose midst he came from, he carried the revolutionary line of

Hunted by the reactionary government and military, he continued to be available to the media while evading attempts to capture him. In 1989, AFP Southern Luzon Command Chief General Alejandro Galido kidnapped his three-year-old daughter to pressure him to surrender. He refused. In response, he launched a powerful campaign exposing the general's gross violation of the laws of war. The powerful campaign forced the general to release his daughter.

The daughter, Andrea, became an activist and joined the revolutionary underground. She was arrested and while in prison gave birth to a baby girl who however died two days after birth due to harsh conditions of detention. After her release as a result of a vigorous campaign by human rights organizations, Andrea strongly requested that the remains of Ka Roger be gathered from a secret place in the countryside and laid to rest together with her mother, Rosemarie “Ka Soly” Dumanais, the comrade wife of Ka Roger, and her baby daughter, in a marked grave in Ka Roger's hometown, Ibaan, Batangas.

On March 27, in NPA guerrilla fronts throughout the country, the NPA honored Ka Roger with a 21-gun-salute and a tribute.

In a tribute to Ka Roger, the NDFP declared: “For many years, from the time of the Marcos dictatorship, Ka Roger was loved by the people as he was known as the voice, the face and spirit of the revolutionary movement. He was an excellent communicator. He broadcasted the line of the people's movement most effectively, explained the various issues, even the most difficult ones, in the simplest and very understandable way. Coming from the toiling masses and immersed in their situation, life and struggles, he understood their deepest feeling and aspirations. He was a favorite of media people. They loved to call him up and interview him.

“His memory and inspiration live on among the masses and the entire people. His life and service are imprinted in the hearts of the masses.”

The CPP declared: “Five years after his death,



the memory of Ka Roger remains alive in the consciousness of the Filipino people. His name cannot be erased from the memory of the people because the oppression and exploitation of the people which pushed

Ka Roger at that time to join the people's war continue to push the toiling masses to hold the weapons of the revolutionary armed struggle.

“The reactionaries are very frustrated that the memory, recognition and admiration for Ka Roger remain alive. When he was the spokesperson of the Party, Ka Roger was always a headache to the fascist officials of the military and the bureaucrat capitalists because he exposed and opposed in a timely way the lies and deceptions of the ruling puppet state and the AFP.”

The Communist Party declared, “in laying Ka Roger to rest, let us face the challenge of sowing the seeds of new Ka Rogers”. ■

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Youth and students, especially women youth, must be made to understand that it is difficult for women workers who hold paid jobs, do union work and house work to still undertake community organizing. Youth and students must step in and help in community organizing and managing community projects, especially those near their schools or in their neighborhoods.

Women have the duty to help in organizing other national-democratic organizations wherever opportunities arise. Discussions on women's issues must be extensive and these should be linked at all times to the general aims of the national democratic revolution.

Peasant women must continuously advance the organizing of peasants, fellow women and their families for land reform and for consolidating the revolutionary mass base in the countryside. Here exist the closest opportunities for the

initial liberation of women in the field of politics and economy, the democratization of the family, and the creation of new social relations that are truly equal and promote fighting for the people alongside each other.

There is no other path for women to liberate themselves from discrimination, oppression and exploitation by imperialist globalization but through participating in the revolutionary movement. Politically aware women are shattering the chains of traditional roles that limit their participation and taking up arms as Red fighters and commanders of the New People's Army.

Only by overthrowing imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat-capitalism and advancing to socialism can women gain real equality and liberate themselves from oppression in the present society. ■

ON THE BRUSSELS BOMBING

ILPS condemns terrorist attacks in Belgian capital, other cities of the world



By Prof. Jose Maria Sison
Chairperson, International League of
Peoples' Struggle (ILPS)

The International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) extends its deepest sympathy to the victims of the latest bombings in Brussels claimed by the Daesh (Islamic State, ISIS or ISIL) as well as those earlier perpetrated in other cities of the world by groups affiliated with either the Daesh or Al Qaida. We extend our sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the peoples subjected to intimidation by senseless acts of terror against the civilian population.

We condemn the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks in Brussels which have murdered 36 people and injured 250 people at the Zaventem airport and at the Maelbeek metro station. These are the latest of terrorist attacks perpetrated by cells of the Daesh. There have been hundreds of such attacks by either Daesh or Al Qaida since those in Beirut and Paris last year. Most of these have been in war-torn Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria.

Outside of these have been those in Bamako, Nigeria on November 20, 2015, in Tunis, Tunisia on Nov. 24, 2015, in San Bernardino, California on Dec. 2, 2015, in Istanbul, Turkey on Jan. 12, 2016, in Jakarta, Indonesia on Jan. 14, 2016, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on Jan. 15, 2016, in

Ankara, Turkey on Feb. 17, 2016, in Mogadishu, Somalia on Feb. 26, 2016, once more in Ankara, Turkey on March 13, 2016 and in Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast on March 14, 2016.

Daesh brazenly boasted of responsibility for the bombings last October in Ankara which killed around a hundred people and injured more people, last November in Paris that killed 129 people and in Beirut that killed 40 people and injured 300 others and for most of the subsequent bombings. Daesh is now gloating over the Brussels bombing which it has claimed.

Terrorist bombings are aimed at killing and maiming civilians. They are reprehensible as crimes against humanity. They are inhuman and senseless and cannot be justified by any rational political cause or military strategy. By attacking innocent civilians, they cannot win adherents and gain political or military strength. They are abhorred by the people.

But the terrorism being carried out by armed cells of the Daesh or Al Qaeda are small in scale and pale in comparison to the massive bombings in the mega-terrorism being carried out by the US and NATO forces against the people in the course of wars of aggression and military intervention. These have killed millions of civilians, destroyed hospitals and schools, industrial areas and civilian infrastructure and razed cities to the ground, as in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yugoslavia, Libya and Syria.

The use of prohibited weapons like white phosphorus bombs that kill by burning deep into the skin of the victims as well as the use of depleted uranium that cause cancer epidemics in the affected communities is horrendous. The imperialist chieftain Obama and the Israeli Zionists have killed far more men, women, children, the elderly and sick people than the Daesh and Al Qaida, with the use of drones and bombs targeting hospitals, schools, residential buildings, weddings and other social gatherings.

The US and other western leaders display their grand hypocrisy when they condemn the jihadist perpetrators of heinous terrorist crimes. In the first place, Daesh and Al Qaida are creations of their CIA and MI6 and other pro-US intelligence agencies like Pakistan's ISI and Israel's MOSSAD in order to topple certain regimes. Subsequently, after allowing themselves to be used for imperialist purposes, these jihadist groups would proceed to use terrorism to pursue their own aims by using senseless bombings and indiscriminate shooting at innocent people.

They find fertile ground for recruitment among Muslim youth who crave for revenge

because they have lost close relatives and friends to imperialist aggression, have seen their native lands laid to waste by the US and NATO wars of aggression for regime change and are subjected to discrimination and religious bigotry in the imperialist countries. A big number of recruits of the Daesh and Al Qaida have thus come from these countries.

Western leaders deceive their own people and the people of the world when they go through their grandiose rituals in front of TV cameras of pointing an accusing finger at these jihadist groups that they have created in the first place in order to cover up their bigger crimes in their wars of aggression against the people of the Middle-East and Africa in pursuit of their imperialist aims of plundering the wealth and resources of these strategic regions.

The bombings by these armed groups that victimize the people of Europe are the bitter fruit of the cruel inhuman actions and policies of bourgeois leaders who follow the baton of the



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US in its wars of aggression and military intervention. The people of Europe must therefore rise up and demand from their governments to stop their blind obedience to the US war agenda.

The people of Europe must likewise be vigilant that these terrorist incidents are not used by bourgeois governments to justify fascist laws and practices and the imposition of a police state on the people and the millions of refugees displaced from their countries by imperialist wars of aggression. French President Hollande has already used the Paris bombings in November to impose a state of emergency. This could be a prelude to more repressive

measures.

The people of Europe must not allow themselves to be victimized twice over by their own governments: suffer the blow back from the actions of their governments in joining or supporting the wars of aggression of the US and the possible use of these terrorist bombings to impose a terrorist police state to further curb their freedoms.

We call on the people of Europe and the world to condemn and oppose the entire range of terrorism against the people, including the mini-terrorism of Al Qaida and Daesh that has been inspired or provoked by the mega-terrorism of US imperialism and NATO. We call on the people of Europe and the world to oppose any attempt of the ruling governments to use the existence of Al Qaida and Daesh cells and other US-created terrorist groups to justify the US doctrine of permanent war and state terrorism to further curtail and violate the people's basic democratic rights and fundamental freedoms. ■

For her part, Consie Taguba-Lozano, Gabriela activist and organizer based in the Netherlands, gave a scholarly review, noting that the book responds to unfolding events in the Philippines and the world at large. She said that other political analysts in the progressive circles hardly unearth the root causes of the global crisis and point the way forward for the people. She said Sison's book clearly and precisely exposes US imperialism, and confronts the crisis by calling on the people themselves to rely on their organized strength to resist the crisis. "Prof. Sison's book is a valuable resource and reference material in the great library of the people's resistance," Lozano concluded.

People's struggle in the Netherlands, Philippines and Palestine

The forum discussion started with Bob Scholte of Revolutionaire Eenheid who shared the crisis and struggle in the Netherlands. He said the political actions and mass demonstrations organized and participated in by the Dutch youth in 2015 debunk the impression that the Dutch youth are apolitical and individualistic.

He cited the struggles of the undocumented people, the student occupations, the anti-fascist, anti-racist actions and the Schilderswijk uprising as proof of the resistance sweeping the Netherlands.

The second speaker, Luis Jalandoni, spoke on the revolutionary struggle in the Philippines. He made a concise presentation of the people's long history of resistance against colonial and imperialist exploiters and oppressors and the current state of the revolutionary and progressive movement in the Philippines.

He said that in the 47 years of the Filipino people's revolutionary struggle against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism, the people's war has grown stronger

and has spread to substantial portions of 71 provinces out of a total 81 provinces in the country. Jalandoni stressed that the Aquino regime does not recognize the existing agreements in the peace negotiations and only wants prolonged ceasefire and surrender by the revolutionary forces.

For her part, guest of honor Leila Khaled, gave a rousing and inspiring anecdotal presentation of the Palestinian people's revolutionary resistance against US imperialism and Israeli Zionism. She gave a vivid account of her role in hijacking TWA 840 back on August 29, 1969 and her continuing role as a revolutionary woman leader of the PFLP.

She regaled an enthralled predominantly youthful audience with her account of the hijacking as a means of "ringing the bell"

worldwide for the cause of the Palestinian people's resistance to regain their homeland from the Zionists backed by the US and European imperialists who in the first place had hijacked the Palestinian homeland.

The last part of the tri-event was moving cultural performances by the Willem Geertman Cultural Brigade, Revolutionaire Eenheid, Ugnayang Pilipino sa Belgium and the youth rap group Puur. They rendered inspired choral recitations of "Litany

of Despair", "Violins" and "Sad State of Freedom". Marikit Saturay, a youth activist and composer interpreted the song "Pagkatapos ng Digma" (After the War), and performed her own composition "Song for Migrants".

Other performances included a choral interpretation of "Awit ng Tagumpay" (Song of Victory) and rousing rap numbers. The cultural performances were capped with the singing of the "Internationale". ■



Leila Khaled gave a rousing and inspiring anecdotal presentation of the Palestinian people's revolutionary resistance.

the heart of drama. I didn't tell Cynthia that I was angling for a love story, of which she was going to be one half. I could even write a movie script, and wished for a producer willing to risk a few millions of pesos. I started to think about research.

And then she told me that a book on AJ was coming out, which was being edited by Luchi Maranan, who happens to be a cousin of mine. That should take care of research for what I would want to do. She sent me a soft copy.

Even if I may find *More than a Red Warrior* not sufficiently structured dramatically to make for a rising action, all the drama is already embedded in this nonfiction. AJ is spoken of by people who have known him up close at home, in school, in the streets, in the countryside, and the battlefield. There are endless letters by one and all who mattered in his life, but most especially by his wife and children, and by AJ to them. There are accounts of his living and dying, of his militancy, comradeship, steadfastness, and leadership. This is one book about one man authored by quite a lot speaking as one in tribute to his humanity.

More than a Red Warrior provides a three-dimensional study of a protagonist who has, by dying, become larger than life. It shows us a mortal character imbued with an immortal vision, which has become his personification. Here we have a hero who is torn by conflicts which he himself resolves at the expense of the personal. How he treasured the personal at the heart of his politics is what makes AJ completely human.

More than a Red Warrior is a book of virtues that is articulated by AJ in his unique terms; yet not surprising if one knew enough of the heroes and martyrs of the revolutionary movement that has withstood the test of time. What strikes me most is that this book not merely introduces AJ to us; it makes us intimate with a hero of a just revolution. Now looming larger than life, he prods us to think beyond concerns that, by his, and the Lacub martyrs' ultimate sacrifice, have become rather petty.

Just exactly, how does one pay respects to Arnold "Ka Mando" Borja Jaramillo?

To Recca Noelle "Ka Tet" Monte? To Brandon "Ka Sly" Madranga? To Robert "Ka Dawyan" Beyao? To Ricardo "Ka Tubong" Reyes? To Pedring "Ka Jess" Banggao? To Robert "Ka Limbo" Perez?

And to the two martyred civilians, Engineer Fidela Bugarin Salvador and farmer Noel Viste?

Reading *More than a Red Warrior* is one. Helping find justice for them and the rest of the heroes and martyrs of the revolutionary movement is another. Being part of this movement in any which way we can is yet one.

I must admit, I've said to other people what I told Cynthia, that I'd like to make a play or a movie out of their life stories. But in AJ, I did feel a stronger prodding, perhaps because with the tragedy comes the catharsis: that of knowing that AJ has not died in vain. In fact, the book says he shall live – in the memory of Cynthia and the children AJ left behind, Raia and Cholo, all those who said their piece about the Red Warrior, and in each of us whose lives have been touched by AJ and his tribe.

Another Red Warrior of an earlier generation spoke of thoughts that AJ, away from family and in the thick of the armed struggle, must have entertained as well. In his poem Open Letter to the Filipino Youth, Eman Lacaba mused:

You want to know, companions of my youth, / How much has changed the wild but shy poet / Forever writing last poem after last poem / You bear he's dark as earth, barefoot / A turban around his head, a bolo at his side, / His ballpen blown up to a long-barreled gun / Deeper still the struggling change inside. / Like husks of coconut he tears away / The billion layers of his selfishness / Or learns to cage his longing like the bird / Of legend, fire, and a song within his chest. ■

**'More Than a Red Warrior'
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The Difference a Red Warrior Makes

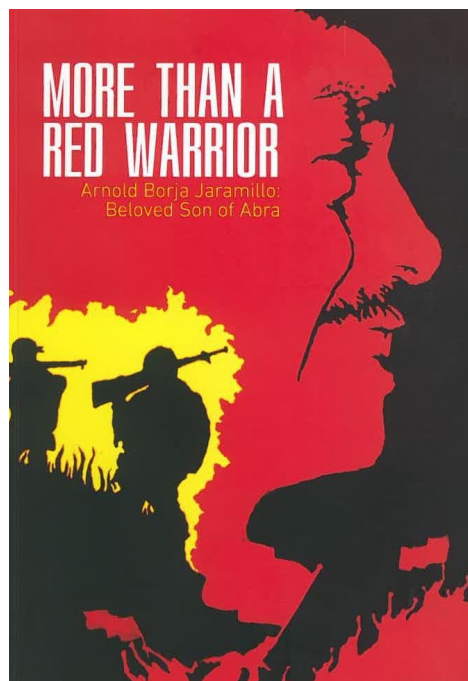
By Bonifacio P. Ilagan

The news spread rather fast among us in Manila: Something terrible had happened in a town called Lacub in Abra on the 4th of September 2014. It was a massacre of seven Red fighters and two civilians. One of the seven, Recca Noelle “Ka Tet” Monte, was a Manilaña and was accorded a fitting tribute in a church in UP Diliman where she studied. There, the whispered accounts of the bloodbath were heard by all.

I scanned the pictures of the other former UP student, Arnold “Ka Mando” Jaramillo, or AJ. The name was not familiar, but the face was. I thought we might have met, or maybe not. Perhaps it was just the familiarity engendered among kindred spirits in the movement. At times like this, it felt like one knew another even if one actually did not. Why is it that when a hero or a martyr of the movement takes centerstage in death, we are drawn to an intimacy of a relationship that is thicker than blood?

And then I met AJ’s widow in, of all places, the belly of the beast. Arriving in Washington DC, USA, it was what our hosts greeted us with. “Welcome to the belly of the beast!” they said to us.

Before testifying in the International People’s Tribunal, Cynthia and I had first to travel to New York to participate in a human rights forum. It was the first time that I heard her speak before a crowd – and it was about her husband whose story I had previously known second-hand. Pouring her heart out about the Lacub massacre and how the fascist murderers brutalized AJ and his comrades, her voice quivered and broke. She had to shed tears. Many among the audience also did. I did, but tried hard not to show it. I knew exactly Cynthia’s pain, having also lost my wife a month after AJ died.



Even as the widow’s voice trembled, there was a palpable hardness to it. Even if it was the way she ordinarily spoke of iniquities, I sensed the particular bitterness, the rage, the fervor to pursue justice. By sharing a personal grief, she spoke of a national anguish. By revealing a family’s sacrifice, she made known a collective forbearance.

The dramatist in me sensed the all too human conflict in the story of AJ, which is at

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The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is an alliance of revolutionary organizations with roots in the various sectors and regions of the Philippines. Its goal is to build a society that enjoys national sovereignty, genuine democracy, social justice, progress and peace. It seeks to unite with all forces willing to achieve these goals.

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