



UPDATES PHILIPPINES

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EDITORIAL

Kowtowing to imperialist masters

The Manila government's President Rodrigo Duterte has earned infamy for throwing invectives at heads of sovereign states, UN officials, parliaments of sovereign states, and officials of sovereign bodies. Just a few months after taking power in 2016, he called Barack Obama of the US "a son of a whore" in reaction to criticisms about his deadly "war on drugs". Last month, he threatened war against Canada if an illegal importation of garbage will not be shipped back.

Duterte justifies his foul mouth and inanity by claiming to uphold national sovereignty and protecting the Filipino people. In reality however, such tough talk is a smoke screen for kowtowing to his imperialist masters – the US, China, Russia and Japan.

The Manila government has abandoned the Philippines' claims to the West Philippine Sea, auctioned away its natural resources, and pimped its human resources for foreign exchange. At the same time, the country remains a neocolony of the US. The latter's military forces have increased on Philippine soil and waters. It has been allowed to increase its patrols in Philippine waters, joint US-Philippine war exercises have also increased. Duterte is currently selling more of the nation's resources and its people to imperial Japan.

Contrary to his hooligan talk, Duterte is completely at peace with foreign intervention which condones his government's mass murder, surrender of national patrimony and terrorist war against the people. **UP**



NDFP meets Canadian officials on peace talks

A delegation from the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) met with Canadian officials in Ottawa on 13 and 14 May to discuss the status of the peace negotiations between the NDFP and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), and Canada's possible roles in its resumption.



The NDFP met with officials of the Canadian Foreign Ministry, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Canadian Parliament. NDFP peace panel member Coni Ledesma (photos, in yellow vest), who led the delegation, reported, "We were warmly received and had very fruitful discussions about the peace talks."

"We had lengthy discussions about the deteriorating human rights situation in the Philippines, and we spoke frankly about how foreign governments assist the Duterte government in committing these atrocities."

According to Ledesma, the Canadian officials expressed interest in a multilateral effort to push for the resumption of

the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations. They reiterated their concern about the human rights situation in the country, saying that they will not be a party to committing atrocities against the Filipino people. They also expressed their commitment to immediately resolve the garbage shipment issue.

The NDFP delegation met with J. Ian Burchett, Director General of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) for South-Southeast Asia Bureau (top photo, 2nd from left); John Summerbell, GAC Deputy Director for Philippines Development Division (top photo, middle); Adrienne Parent, GAC Senior Desk Officer for Southeast Asia, APEC and ASEAN; Joseph Singh, Policy Advisor for the Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland; Member of Parliament Guy Caron, Vice Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (bottom photo, 4th from left); and MP Cheryl Hardcastle, Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. The delegation was accompanied by leaders of the Filipino community, including Bagong Alyansang Makabayan – Canada (BAYAN - New Patriotic Alliance). **UP**

NDFP supports Venezuela vs US sanctions

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) expressed support for Venezuela's Anti-Blockade World Campaign, aimed at countering the economic and financial blockade of the US Trump Administration against the people of Venezuela.

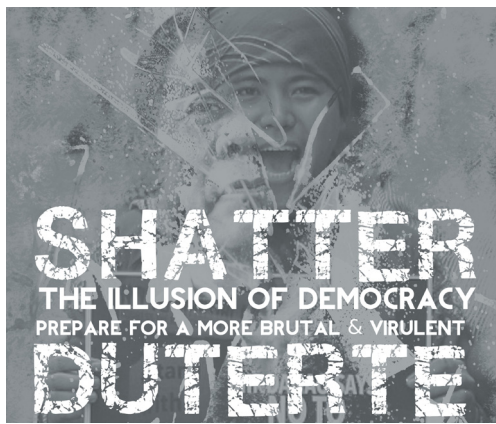
NDFP Chief International Representative Luis G. Jalandoni, in a message sent on 22 May, condemned the Trump regime "for its criminal economic and financial blockade against the Venezuelan government and people."

"Its sanctions since 2015 have seriously restricted the access to food, medicines, basic goods and finance, thus causing serious damage to the health and the economy of the Venezuelan people," he declared.

Citing the Maduro government, Jalandoni described the US sanctions "as a new form of waging war on the Venezuelan people and the Bolivarian Republic."

"The revolutionary Filipino people, who are waging a 50-year-old revolutionary struggle against US imperialism and domestic reactionaries, once again express their firm solidarity with the Venezuelan people."

The embassies of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in The Hague and Manila acknowledged Jalandoni's message with gratitude. NDFP delegations [visited Venezuela in 2017](#). They saw the millions of homes built for the poor and programs providing food and health. They also visited Communes El Limon and Nueva Tacagua near Caracas. **UP**



Election victory to push Duterte's brutal policies – CPP

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Tuesday revealed that the election of Duterte's candidates in the last mid-term elections will result in more brutal and virulent policies against the Filipino people.

In a [statement released on 28 May](#), the CPP said that Duterte will order his 'newly minted minions' in Parliament to change the Constitution for his 'fake federalism'. "This would set him up as head of state for as long as his failing health holds," it said.

According to the CPP, changing the Constitution will open the floodgates to "selling out the country's water, land, mineral and

labor resources to the highest bidder."

"He will push Philippine society further to a fascist state by reviving the death penalty, lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and requiring citizens to train and eventually serve the military."

Nine out of the 12 candidates for Senator endorsed by Duterte won in the elections of 13 May. Many believe that the elections were heavily stacked in favor of Duterte's candidates.

[According to CPP Founding Chairman Prof. Jose Maria Sison](#), the Duterte regime "deployed huge amounts of public and private funds to generate propaganda in favor of the regime and against the opposition; used the military and police for intimidation, selective murders and splitting the opposition; and completely controlled the Commission on Election and its computer counting machines."

Sison averred, "By rigging the elections and continuing his tyrannical rule, Duterte has brought about the conditions favorable for the rise of the legal mass protest movement as well as the more potent armed revolutionary mass movement." **UP**

NPA seizes arms from Negros bandit group

The Armando Sumayang, Jr. Command of the New People's Army in Negros Island successfully raided a detachment of the bandit group RPA-ABB in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, on 8 May. The victorious raid yielded a 60mm machine gun, three automatic rifles, two handguns, ammunition, and other military equipment.

The [NPA Armando Sumayang, Jr. Command explained](#) that the so-called Revolutionary Proletarian Army – Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) is actually a bandit group, serving as an armed counter-revolutionary puppet of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the island. They use their weapons to terrorize communities and serve corrupt politicians and despotic landlords, "like Arroyo, Alvarez, Zayco, Sola, Marañon, Benedicto-De la Cruz and Eduardo Cojuangco."

The bandits, [according to the NPA](#), are responsible for the massacre of nine peasants in Sagay, Negros Occidental on 20 October 2018. The victims included four women and two children. **UP**