



UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Amsterdamsestraatweg 50, 3513AG Utrecht, The Netherlands
T: : +31 30 2310431 | E: updates.philippines@ndfp.org | W: updates.ndfp.org

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EDITORIAL

Global spotlights on the Duterte fascist regime

The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced on 8 October the awarding of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize to Philippine journalist Maria Ressa and Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov, “for their courageous fight for freedom of expression in the Philippines and Russia”. According to the Committee, they represent “all journalists who stand up for this ideal in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions”.

Indeed, the award validates the Philippines’ infamy as one of the most dangerous countries for journalists. It likewise signifies the ever-escalating disgust of the global community to the Duterte fascist regime.

Under the Duterte regime, 20 journalists have been murdered since 2016. To date, none have been convicted of these heinous crimes. Instead, the regime’s prosecutors routinely file fabricated cases of subversion, illegal possession of firearms and explosives, libel and cyber libel against critical journalists. They can then be arrested and detained indefinitely. They are labeled as enemies of the state, suffer military surveillance, harassment and threats to their physical safety. Ms. Ressa herself faces no less than seven cases of cyber libel.

The 2021 Nobel Peace Prize to the Philippine journalist complements the recent decision of the International Criminal Court to open investigations on crimes against humanity against the Duterte government. Both decisions sharpen further the global focus on the murderous, corrupt and treasonous Duterte regime.

Rodrigo Duterte, on his last year as President, has become the proverbial lameduck. Citing secretly commissioned polls, Duterte has withdrawn his bid for the Vice Presidency in the 2022 elections. Senate investigations are underway for his colossal crimes of corruption. His political alliance is fragmenting, some former Duterte loyalists complaining that he has stashed money away to secret foreign accounts. Complaints from military officials are getting louder against Duterte’s sell out of the West Philippine Sea to China. Duterte’s propaganda gimmickry has lost its effectivity, his so-called popularity is drastically waning, while the Filipino people’s call to end the detested regime is gaining momentum.

The Filipino people and the rest of the world need to remain vigilant and militant, however, especially against possibilities of covert terrorist operations or declaration of nationwide martial law by the Duterte regime, in order to postpone the 2022 elections and keep himself in power. The Filipino people needs to see the fight against the murderous, corrupt and treasonous Duterte regime through to the end. The people needs to push the struggle further forward for national liberation, social justice and genuine democracy. **UP**



Philippine doctors outraged over Covid-19 funds abuses

More than 300 doctors from the Philippine College of Physicians issued an “Expression of Indignation and Call to Action” on 11 October, protesting corruption in the Duterte government amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, the health professionals are condemning President Rodrigo Duterte’s attempts to block the investigations of

the Philippine Senate on anomalies in the disbursements of COVID-19 response funds.

Doctors who signed the letter included former Department of Health secretaries Carmencita Reodica, Manuel Dayrit, Enrique Ona Jr, Esperanza Cabral and Paulyñ Ubial. They demanded Duterte not to obstruct the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee inquiry.

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Last week, Duterte issued a memorandum ordering DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III and other Cabinet members to ignore the summons of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee. He also warned that senators will be sent to jail if they insisted on pushing on with their investigations.

Duterte's threats have been met with defiance. Dr. Maricar Limpin, President of the Philippine College of Physicians, said, "We all deserve to know the truth. We will reject all efforts to block or cover-up the testimonies on what truly happened. Hence, we demand transparency, exigency, and accountability!"

At the press conference of the PCP Council of Past Presidents on 11 October, Dr. Eugenio Jose F. Ramos, PCP President of 2009-2010, said, "This Expression of Indignation and Call to Action should not only come from the doctors and health sector. It should come from all of us. Because the illness of one, is the life of others.

"All of us have the responsibility to clean our society of corruption. If we do not give the needed attention and respect for the health and life of the Filipino, our economy will fail, so will the security and peace of our society, the education of our children and the future of our country," said Dr. Ramos. He stressed, "Let us clear our minds of the garbage that we see. Let's help the good guys, and get rid of the bad ones. Once and for all, let's do the right thing for our country... for ourselves, our families and our children." **UP**



Image: Ang Bayan | cpp.ph

Duterte, Marcoses colluding to hijack 2022 Elections – CPP

The Communist Party of the Philippines on 7 October painted a "horrid image" of the 2022 Elections saying "It is becoming crystal clear how it will be used to perpetuate the Duterte clique in power and pave the way for the Marcoses' return to Malacañang."

The 2022 elections, the CPP said, will be held "under the fascist tyranny of Duterte" who is desperate to remain in power. He will use the hundreds of billions of pesos in government infrastructure funds to be granted to politicians in exchange for their loyalty. He has ordered the military and police to harass politicians who refuse to bow to his power. Duterte will surely be able to manipulate the election results, said the CPP, given that majority of Commission on Election officials are Duterte appointees and the delivery of the ballots will be done by a company owned by Dennis Uy, "a known Duterte crony."

Ferdinand Marcos, Jr, the dictator's son, has already filed his candidacy for the Presidency. Also running for President is Ronald dela Rosa, chief implementer of Duterte's murderous 'war on drugs'. Bong Go, Duterte's loyal aide, is Gen. dela Rosa's Vice Presidential candidate. Meanwhile, the Duterte camp is still anticipating the entry of daughter Sara Duterte-Carpio into the presidential or vice presidential race.

The CPP said, "It is correct for the people to use the upcoming elections as a battleground to fight the Duterte tyranny and the return of the Marcoses... The broadest and largest possible united front must be brought together to frustrate the devious scheme of the Dutertes and Marcoses to place the country under their dual reign."

Commenting on the upcoming 2022 Elections, Prof. Jose Maria Sison, NDFP Chief Political Consultant said, "By all indications, the Duterte ruling clique will rig the 2022 presidential elections as it did in the 2019 midterm elections... The tyrant wants the election of a new president who will prevent his arrest upon the warrant of the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity or upon the warrant of the courts of his own government whose Senate is now exposing his grave crimes of corruption."

Prof. Sison revealed that Duterte "has not yet dropped completely the option of doing away with the 2022 elections." He said the Filipino people should be called upon to be vigilant and militant against the possibility that Duterte "would use either terrorist acts of his own making or the pandemic as pretext to declare a nationwide martial law or a presidential pseudo-revolutionary government, postpone the elections indefinitely and rule by decree as Marcos did in 1972." **UP**



*Massacre site of four NPA hors de combat in Manapla, Negros Occidental.
Photo: sunstar.com.ph*

AFP commits war crimes in series of operations

The Communist Party of the Philippines reported on 7 October that the Armed Forces of the Philippines committed several acts in violation of international humanitarian law in the last couple of weeks, including the killing of hors de combat and bombings of rural villages.

In the early hours of 30 September, four Red fighters of the New People's Army were asleep when they were shot dead by troopers of the AFP's 303rd Infantry Brigade in Manapla town, Negros Occidental province in the central

Philippine island of Negros. The victims, Marilyn Badayos, Rudy Carbajosa, Ronilo Desabille and Rufino Bocaval were in the village recovering from the flu.

Juanito Magbanua, spokesperson of the NPA Negros Island Operations Command, belied the AFP's fiction that there was "a gunfight that lasted for almost an hour." Mabanua said, "The butchers entered the house during the early hours and mercilessly shot the comrades while asleep."

On 21 September, Philippine Air Force aircrafts repeatedly dropped bombs in the rural village of Sta. Teresita, Cagayan Valley in northern Philippines, destroying farmers' farmlands and livelihood. The number of those killed is yet unknown.

On 16 September, PAF aircrafts strafed and dropped six bombs on rural villages in Northern Samar. The bombings lasted for seven hours, forcing residents to evacuate to a nearby village. The following day, the PAF strafed and dropped bombs in another village in Bobon town, forcing the nearly 2,000 residents to evacuate to the town center.

In Camarines Sur on 12 September, NPA fighter Discorro L. Roma was subdued by elements of the Philippine Army's 902nd Infantry Brigade before a gunfight ensued with Roma's NPA unit. Family members, however, later recovered his lifeless body, bearing gunshot wounds, crushed skull, fingers and genitals, including contusions over the rest of his body.

Security forces of the Duterte government are escalating the use of drones, helicopters, and fighter jets for bombings and strafing against the NPA and people living in the countryside. The regime is spending billions of pesos to strengthen its 'air superiority' and to sow fear among the rural population.

These series of acts perpetrated by the AFP are prohibited under international humanitarian law protecting hors de combat and the civilian population. These also violate provisions of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law signed in 1998 by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in the course of the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations. **UP**



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