



# UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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*Beloved warrior of the people,  
Ka Oris (Jorge Madlos). Photo: cpp.ph*

## BREAKING NEWS Unarmed NPA official, medic murdered

The Communist Party of the Philippines announced on 31 October the killing of New People's Army Spokesperson Jorge Madlos and NPA medic Eighfel dela Peña on Friday, 29 October, in the town of Impasug-ong, Bukidnon province in the southern island of Mindanao. Madlos, popularly known as Ka Oris, and Dela Peña were last known to be on board a motorcycle en route for Ka Oris' medical treatment.

CPP Spokesperson Marco Valbuena said the two were both unarmed and were not killed in a gunfight, contrary to statements of Duterte government officials. **UP**

## EDITORIAL

### What happens to public funds in the Philippines?

Try following the trail of public funds in the Duterte government. Billions of pesos traverse expansive multi-lane highways leading to the pockets – or secret overseas bank accounts – of President Rodrigo Duterte, his cronies and the highest government officials. Meanwhile, some pesos and cents trudge narrow muddy roads to eventually trickle into the country's derelict educational system, healthcare, agricultural sector and social services.

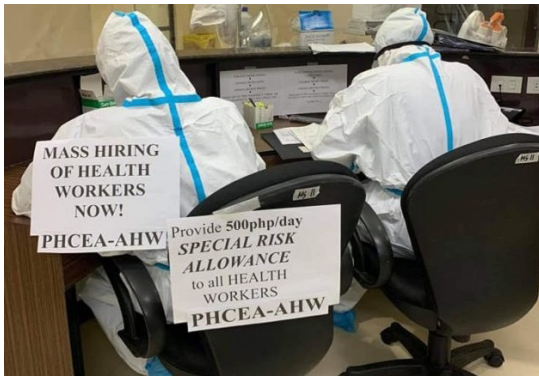
Already notorious the world over for the murder of tens of thousands of Filipinos in its 'war on drugs' and 'war against communism', the Duterte regime is equally culpable of plundering the nation's coffers and patrimony. Threads in the regime's web of corruption are currently unraveling in the Philippine Senate, involving the anomalous government purchase of US\$833-million overpriced face masks and medical equipment from a Chinese dummy corporation having close ties with Duterte himself. Unravel the threads further and Duterte's deals for 41.6 million overpriced Sinovac vaccine doses will also be revealed.

Such is the cold-blooded brutality of the Duterte regime, fleecing the ailing and impoverished Filipinos during the pandemic! Duterte's pretenses of 'simple living' are being unmasked by the massive corruption favoring his cronies and other high officials, safeguarding Duterte's wealth in dummy corporations and secret bank accounts overseas.

All these anomalies in public funds expose the rottenness of bureaucrat capitalist operations in the Philippines. They expose how officials accumulate wealth through bribery and cuts in government contracts, as well as protection money for gambling, drugs and other criminal syndicates.

In stark contrast, public funds of the People's Democratic Government are spent entirely for the interests and well-being of the Filipino people. Taxes and other resources raised within the territories of the revolutionary government are allocated for free education for young and old, maintaining and promoting public health, strengthening community self-defense and the people's army, boosting agricultural production and other programs for the benefit of the impoverished and oppressed people.

Officials of the various organs of the People's Democratic Government, New People's Army and Communist Party of the Philippines are models of simple living, self-sacrifice and arduous struggle. Pocketing public funds for personal gain is anathema to the revolutionary government. The Filipino people cherish their revolutionary government. The Filipino people detest the murderous, treasonous and corrupt Duterte regime. **UP**



*BURNOUT. Health workers demand the release of COVID allowances. Photo: Alliance of Health Workers | bulatlat.com*

## Philippine nurses resign en masse

Nurses in the Philippines are resigning en masse, because they are underpaid and have long working hours in the frontlines of the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Their demands for better working conditions and higher pay have been rejected by the government, despite the hospitals having fulfilled all the requirements for the release of the pandemic compensatory funds.

“They are tired and burnt out!” declared Maria Lourdes C. Banaga, nursing director at the Lipa Medix Medical Center, 85km south of capital Manila. She reported that of the 200 nurses of the Center, only 63 have remained as of September 2021. Nurses in other health facilities across

the country are also resigning. The Duterte government’s Department of Health recently reported a shortfall of more than 100,000 nurses, forcing those who have remained to work longer hours – up to 16 hours a day – without additional compensation.

Jao Clumia of the St. Luke Medical Center Employees Association in Metro Manila, revealed that 230 nurses have already resigned from their facility since January 2021. In Iligan City, in southern Philippines, more than 14 nurses resigned at the same time in May, because they had not been paid their salaries for four months. They were hired at the start of the pandemic and promised PhP24,000 (US\$473) per month, but were paid their salaries.

The common complaint of the nurses is that their salaries are very low, with many in the private health centers accepting PhP8,000 (US\$158) per month wages. They commonly work from 12 to 16 hours, saying they cannot abandon their patients because there is no one to relieve them.

Doctors of the Private Hospital Association are deeply concerned that the health situation of the country may collapse within the next six months and that there will not be any nurses left in the private hospitals. This would have a disastrous effect on the hospitals and patients, they said.

At a press conference of the Private Hospital Worker Alliance of the Philippines on 24 October, they again called for the release of the Special Risk Allowance promised by the Duterte government to the medical frontliners. “What about our meal, accommodation, transportation and life insurance compensation? This is what we expect, but to no avail,” said the alliance’s spokesperson Donell Siazon.

“Need we remind everyone that this is not merely about the funds for just compensation but the very lives of our health workers,” Mr. Siazon said. **UP**



*PNP Chief Gen. Eleazar praises police for killing five civilians. Photo: pna.gov.ph*

## Philippine police massacre civilians in Masbate

Armed elements of the Philippine National Police killed five civilians in their home in Bugtong village, Mandaon town, Masbate province in the early hours of 24 October. The PNP named only one of their victims, Ernie Rosero, claiming that he was a New People’s Army official and that all five were killed in a “gunfight” with the police.

The Communist Party of the Philippines condemned the massacre, saying those killed were all local peasants and not NPA members. Marco Valbuena, CPP Chief Information Officer, cited reports by the NPA’s Regional

Operational Command, saying there was no armed encounter on that day nor was there any NPA unit in the area.

“We hold the PNP accountable for this heinous crime,” Valbuena said. He said the massacre was perpetrated by the police following orders from PNP chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar to “put an end” to the NPA in Masbate and the Bicol region.

A day after the killings, Gen. Eleazar praised his men for the “neutralization of five members of the CPP / NPA / NDF in Masbate”, maintaining that the five civilians “engaged the approaching police officers”

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in a gunfight which resulted in their deaths. Local police presented several firearms and explosive devices to the media, alleging these belonged to the victims.

This massacre, Valbuena declared, “forms part of the worsening state terrorism perpetrated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the PNP against the peasant masses and people of Masbate.”

Duterte’s security forces seek to terrorize the people through killings, abductions, unlawful arrests, beatings, armed intimidation, forced surrenders, hamletting of communities and other abuses “in their futile drive to put an end to the people’s armed resistance”. He added that Masbate has seen the biggest number of extrajudicial killings in the country, “there are now 74 killings in the province under the terrorist Duterte regime.”

The local NPA unit must seek to immediately identify and arrest those directly responsible for the massacre, according to Valbuena. “The NPA must do everything in its power to give justice to the victims and their families.” **UP**



Image: alexsaab.news

## NDFP condemns US kidnapping of Venezuelan diplomat Saab

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines condemned the US government on 28 October for the “abduction, imprisonment and kidnapping without extradition orders of Venezuelan diplomat, Alex Nain Saab Moran” on 16 October. The NDFP called for the immediate release and return to Venezuela of Mr. Saab.

Venezuelan diplomat Saab was abducted by officials of Cabo Verde on 12 June 2020, when the plane he was traveling on from Venezuela to Iran was forced to land for a fuel stop. Two other African nations, under pressure

from the United States, refused to let the plane land. At that time, he was on a humanitarian mission for Venezuela. His arrest and detention in Cabo Verde has been made without any legal basis.

He was physically and psychologically tortured, placed under house arrest and watched round-the-clock by an average of 50 military personnel. He is suffering from cancer but has not received medical attention.

On 16 October, Mr. Saab was kidnapped for the second time, this time by US officials who acted without extradition orders. He is now being illegally held in Miami, Florida.

The diplomat was en route to Iran to negotiate the purchase of much needed food, medicine and other critical supplies for the Venezuelan people, which have become difficult to import into Venezuela due to US sanctions.

There have been demonstrations around the world and calls for Saab’s immediate release and return to Venezuela. The United Nations Human Rights Committee in June called on Cabo Verde to “refrain from extraditing Mr. Alex Saab to the USA” and that he be given access to appropriate health care.

The NDFP added their voice to the clamor, demanding the US to immediately release Mr. Saab and allow him to return to Venezuela. **UP**



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