



UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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UPDATES Philippines wishes you a happy 2023!

EDITORIAL

The Philippine National Democratic Revolution cannot be defeated!

Jose Maria Sison, Founding Chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines correctly declared in his final message to the revolutionary forces and the people, that the Filipino People's Democratic Revolution is invincible!

Contrary to the bluster and self-serving pronouncements of Marcos Jr.'s armed forces that Sison's death would put an end to the revolutionary movement, the revolution is strong enough to cope with the loss of its great leader. Ka Joma has bequeathed to Filipino revolutionaries a treasure trove of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist works in which his immortal revolutionary spirit will live to guide the next generation of Party cadres to greater heights.

The NPA has established more than 110 guerrilla fronts across the country and has built thousands of local mass organizations. It carries out land reform and builds the people's democratic government based on the people's organized strength.

The US-led AFP and defense establishment have come up with the claim of having achieved "strategic victory" aimed at justifying years of squandering hundreds of billions of people's money to fund its ruthless military offensives and widespread abuses. Yet, the AFP and PNP under Marcos continue to demand more money to buy weapons and sustain the operations of more than 160 battalions of combat troops, even in areas which they have declared "cleared" of the NPA.

To date, the Filipinos' national democratic revolution enjoys significant solidarity and mutual support with many revolutionary movements and parties around the world. The NDFP has gained its status of belligerency, not the least because of its establishment of local organs of political power that are the roots of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. It has also persisted in peace negotiations with the GRP to solve the roots of the armed conflict and establish just and lasting peace, an endeavor that has gained the support of the Royal Norwegian Government and other countries.

The worsening socioeconomic conditions and state terrorism incite people's resistance. The chronic crisis of the ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system in the Philippines is worsening rapidly, marked by sharp economic decline and deterioration of living conditions. The masses of workers, peasants and other toiling people are increasingly restless over the socioeconomic crisis and outraged by the Marcos regime's gross disregard of the worsening conditions. The existing situation compels the people to organize and collectively clamor for urgent democratic reforms.

The Philippine economy and government are bankrupt due to its internal ills and the unprecedented crisis of the world capitalist system. Conditions for advancing the revolution is thus more favorable than ever before. **UP**



Image: NDFP International Information Office

International groups, Norwegian government pay tribute to Ka Joma

Hundreds of messages of tributes, solidarity and condolences poured in from progressive groups and political parties around the world including the Royal Norwegian Government, on the passing of Prof. Jose Maria "Ka Joma" Sison, Founding Chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and Chief Political Consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). The week-long wake and public viewing lasted from 18 to 23 December followed by cremation ceremonies on 27 December 2022 in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

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“Joma had a life-long impact on the peace process in the Philippines. He searched tirelessly for solutions in order to bring lasting peace to the Filipino people, even build common ground with adversaries. He will be remembered for his personal commitment and dedication to pursuing dialogue, drawing on his extensive knowledge and experience,” said Kristina Lie Revheim, head of the Third Party Facilitator Team to the GRP-NDFP peace process on behalf of the Royal Norwegian Government. In a separate message, former Special Envoy to the GRP-NDFP peace talks Elisabeth Slattum recalled, “He was a visionary that spent his life fighting for his people and the history of the Philippines is richer for it... I’m sad that we didn’t succeed in creating peace during his lifetime, but he leaves an important and ever-lasting legacy.”

“We mourn because we lost a peace warrior among the revolutionaries. Manong Jo was an ardent revolutionary, the Andres Bonifacio of our modern times,” said Silvestre Bello III, Chair of the GRP Negotiating Panel.

Political parties from various countries in Europe also delivered messages of tribute to celebrate Ka Joma’s legacy. “Joma Sison is one of the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our times,” Roland Meister declared representing the Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany.

“We are grateful to the people of the Philippines for sharing Joma with us,” stressed Wim de Ceukelaire from INTAL, a solidarity group in Belgium. Ka Joma, he said, has been a source of inspiration for European progressives and activists.

“His revolutionary optimism and perseverance will echo for a long time not only in the Philippines but also in Europe,” he added.

“It is a loss of a true internationalist fighter,” said Hamdam Al Hamiri, an activist from the Palestinian left and coordinator of the Palestinian community in Belgium.

“I feel deeply the grief and I know you feel that grief too. But let us turn that grief into revolutionary courage so that the working class representing humanity can proceed to socialism,” concluded Sison’s wife and NDFP Negotiating Panel Chairperson Julie De Lima. **UP**



CPP declares no holiday ceasefire

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) announced on December 19, 2022, that it would not declare a ceasefire during the Christmas and New Year holidays. “There is absolutely no reason to declare a ceasefire,” the CPP said.

The CPP said, “the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) continue its military operations and attacks in many

communities in the countryside, placing several villages under military control by hamletting. The troops abuse the villagers and violate their basic rights by restricting them from working in their fields, illegally searching their houses, illegally arresting and torturing them, and forcing them to surrender and falsely presenting them as New People’s Army (NPA) combatants.”

The CPP says the Marcos regime and its armed forces have relentlessly violated human rights and international humanitarian law. The AFP conducts aerial bombing and strafing, shelling of farm fields and nearby forests and many other atrocities. The military and police committed not less than 45 political killings since Marcos Jr. took power. They also violated the human rights of 47,000 people in the same period, according to the CPP.

The CPP, in principle, authorized the NPA to mount tactical offensives for the next days, saying, “It is the duty of the NPA to come to the people’s armed defense even during the holidays.” It directed the people’s army through its National Operational Command and Regional and Subregional Commands to actively fight and frustrate the AFP’s campaign of armed suppression.

”NPA units can concentrate a superior force against isolated, weak and tired units of the military and police and punish them for their increasing crimes against the people,” the CPP added.

The CPP issued the directive even as “...we mourn the recent passing away of our beloved comrade Jose Maria Sison” who died of illness in a hospital in the Netherlands.

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In another statement, Marco Valbuena, Chief Information Officer of the CPP, scoffed at the claim of the regime's department of defense that Jose Maria Sison's death meant the demise of the revolutionary movement. He said, "Through his leadership, Ka Joma produced countless cadres and leaders capable of leading the party and carrying forward the revolutionary cause far into the future."

Units of the NPA everywhere in the country performed a silent 21-gun salute on December 26, the CPP's 54th anniversary, by way of giving the highest tribute and bidding farewell to the beloved leader.

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Image: BAYAN Europe

Groups mount protest vs Marcos Jr. Brussels visit

The Philippine patriotic alliance Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Europe led protest actions on 14 – 15 December against Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr, who was in Brussels, Belgium to attend the convening of the EU-ASEAN Interbloc Summit.

The protesters accused Marcos Jr. of not holding Duterte accountable for human rights abuses against the Filipino people. According to Bayan, Marcos "continues and expands the draconian and anti-people policies of the Duterte administration." This has resulted in the worsening human rights situation. There are at least 17 cases of extrajudicial killings including the recent killing of Ericson Acosta – NDFP

resource person, and peasant organizer Joseph Jimenez.

At least 150 individuals have been killed in the government's anti-drug campaign, in the first five months alone of the Marcos Jr.'s rule. Some 10,000 civilians have been forcibly evacuated from their villages, their lives and livelihoods disrupted due to relentless military operations. An estimated 3,000 villagers have likewise been victimized and endangered by indiscriminate firing by soldiers conducting operations.

There are now 828 political prisoners, the highest number since the late dictator Marcos' presidency. 25 of them were arrested during the present regime. Red-tagging and other human rights abuses and attacks on civil liberties continue.

Marcos Jr.'s visit to Brussels came in the wake of the European Parliament's resolution on 17 February 2022, urging the EU Commission to "set clear, public, time-bound benchmarks for the Philippines to comply with its human rights obligations". The resolution also warned of "temporary withdrawal of GSP+ preferences if there is no substantial improvement and willingness to cooperate on the part of Philippine authorities".

The EU Parliament Resolution was adopted by 627 votes and called on Philippine authorities to "carry out impartial, transparent, independent and meaningful investigations" into extrajudicial killings and "alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law."

It called on the abolition of the anti-communist NTF-ELCAC government agency and for amendments to the draconian Anti-Terror Law. It also encouraged the International Criminal Court to continue its inquiry into allegations of Duterte's crimes against humanity, despite the Philippine government's decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute, and called on the EU member states to "refrain from all exports of arms, surveillance technology and other equipment that can be used for internal repression" by the Philippine government. **UP**



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