



# UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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## EDITORIAL

### Recipe for people's uprising and social revolution

Philippine revolutionary forces joined the Filipino people and the rest of the world on 25 February in commemorating the 36th anniversary of the Filipino people's uprising which toppled the US-Marcos fascist dictatorship in 1986. We remember all the martyrs and heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice in waging various forms of struggle, even during the darkest nights of Marcos' tyrannical rule. Their valiant resistance culminated in the 1986 people's uprising and resulted in broader freedoms for expression, organizing and mobilization.

This year's commemoration takes on greater significance in the face of the resolute schemes to enthrone the Marcos-Duterte tandem in the May 2022 elections. The Filipino people are keenly aware of these machinations aimed at reversing the Filipino people's historical judgement of 1986. In numerous commemoration activities held across the country, Filipinos from all walks of life echoed calls against prolonging the ruinous Duterte regime and completing the restoration of the Marcoses to power.

Even in its twilight months, the Duterte regime is plunging the country ever deeper in economic and social crisis. High-level corruption, military overspending, import liberalization, galloping inflation, depressed wages and loss of income, widespread unemployment and environmental plunder, combined with intensifying state terrorism and political repression – the Duterte regime is extremely hated by the Filipino people.

Then, as now, the armed revolutionary movement unites with the people in fighting against fascist tyranny, upholding the people's aspirations for national liberation, democracy and just peace.

We are nevertheless profoundly aware that the overthrow of the US-backed Marcos dictatorship did not change the fundamentally oppressive and exploitative social structures and chronic crisis of the ruling social system in the Philippines. Since 1986, the Marcos ruling clique was replaced by a series of ruling cliques in varying degrees but similarly subservient to US imperialist interests. Successive regimes employed ruthless measures on a people struggling against the yet worsening conditions of landlessness, unemployment and poverty.

In the face of the ever-deteriorating economic and political situation, the revolutionary movement and the Filipino people will continue to build their organized strength and wage all forms of popular struggles. The legacy of the 1986 EDSA people's uprising will be carried forward. The people's power will overthrow successive Marcos-Duterte regimes. And the Filipino people will persevere along the path to the complete victory of the revolution for national liberation and genuine democracy. **UP**



Image: [cpp.ph](http://cpp.ph)

### Duterte security forces kill 2 children in Samar

Operating troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines fired their weapons indiscriminately on a group of peasants in Roxas village, Catubig, Northern Samar province on 8 February. Two children, aged 12 and 9 years old were killed. Another child was seriously wounded. The children were with their parents tending their coconut kiln when fired upon by the AFP troopers.

The Communist Party of the Philippines condemned “in the strongest terms” the indiscriminate firing of weapons against civilians and the killing of the two children. CPP Chief Information Officer Marco Valbuena said the killing of the children is “the latest fascist crime of the AFP... It is part of the AFP's heightening attacks against peasants in its increasingly brutal war in the rural areas.”

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Valbuena said these are “acts of war against civilians” aimed at terrorizing the people and suppressing their resistance to defend their land against military occupation of their communities and the encroachment of mining companies and plantations.

Coni Ledesma, Head of the NDFP Special Office for the Protection of Children, condemned the AFP troopers for the killings. “These fascist AFP terrorists are heartless and despicable. The AFP and the Duterte regime have, time and again, proven they are guilty of crimes against humanity,” she said.

Ledesma decried the ‘fake news’ being spread by the AFP and Duterte government officials that there was an armed encounter between the AFP and the New People’s Army, and that the children were caught in the crossfire. The NPA Efren Martires Command and the NDFP Eastern Visayas chapter reported that there was no armed encounter in the village. Moreover, one of the victims confirmed that AFP troopers fired at them.

In a separate statement, the NDFP Eastern Visayas chapter stressed that the incident is a “war crime”. They said criminal accountability clearly lies on the heads of 20th Infantry Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Joemar Buban, 8th Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Edgardo de Leon, Philippine Army Commander Lt. Gen. Romeo Brawner, Jr. and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Andres Centeno. “The number one butcher-terrorist and mastermind of the all-out war of the state against civilians, Rodrigo Duterte, must be equally held accountable.” **UP**



## EU Parliament calls halt to arms exports to Duterte regime

The European Parliament passed a resolution anew on 17 February deploring the “deteriorating human rights situation under President Rodrigo Duterte” and called this time on EU Member States “to refrain from all exports of arms, surveillance technology and other equipment that can be used for internal repression” by the Duterte regime.

The EP resolution denounced the Duterte government’s practice of ‘red-tagging’ or labelling activists, journalists and critics as ‘communists’ and thus exposing them to potential harm and, in this regard, it called for the “abolition of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) in charge of carrying out red-tagging.” It also called on the European Commission to withdraw the GSP+ tariffs incentive arrangement for the Philippines, “if there is no substantial improvement and willingness to cooperate on the part of Philippine authorities.”

The Karapatan Alliance for Advancement of People’s Rights welcomed the resolution, citing the need for continuing solidarity of the European peoples with the Filipino people “in our quest for justice and accountability.” Cristina Palabay, Karapatan Secretary General, said such foreign support are “most needed” given “the dire lack of effective domestic mechanisms that can truly render justice for victims of human rights violations and as anti-democratic forces are poised to continue the fascist policies of the Duterte regime... through the 2022 elections.”

Palabay commended the MEPs who provided “relevant interventions during the plenary debates on the resolution, including MEPs Marie Arena, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Hannah Neumann, Svenja Hahn, Javi López, Seán Kelly, Jiří Pospíšil, Evin Incir, Soraya Rodriguez, Ryszard Czarnecki, Ernest Urtasun, and Heidi Hautala.

Karapatan has borne the brunt of the NTF-ELCAC’s ‘red-tagging’. At least 13 Karapatan officials and volunteers have been murdered since the start of the Duterte regime. The European Parliament resolution called for the “impartial, transparent, independent and meaningful investigations into all extrajudicial killings, including the cases of Jory Porquia, Randall Echanis and Zara Alvarez.” It also called for investigations into “alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, with a view to prosecuting the perpetrators.”

Addressing the upcoming May 2022 elections, the EP expressed regrets that “Philippine authorities have not invited the EU to conduct an election observation mission,” and called on the “EU Delegation and EU Member States’ representations to support sending an international electoral mission and give their full support to independent local election observers.”

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Responding to the resolution, the Duterte government condemned the “misguided” European Parliament which raised what it called “discredited allegations of human rights violations” reported by “libelous journalists and bitter critics of the current administration.”

The European Parliament had issued similar resolutions on 15 September 2016, 16 March 2017, 19 April 2018 and 17 September 2020. **UP**



Image: cpp.ph

## Expose US imperialist role in Ukraine armed conflict -- CPP

“The current war in Ukraine generates favorable conditions for the revolutionary proletariat in the world to expose the true nature of the conflict in the context of the rotten capitalist system and the worsening exploitation against the world's working people.” Thus declared the Communist Party of the Philippines on 24 February, exhorting proletarian parties around the world to strengthen their initiative to fight fascist forces and the

imperialist war, and advance the revolutionary struggles in their countries.

The CPP said that US imperialism dominates the “narrative” about the armed conflict in Ukraine, demonizing Russia and obscuring the US government’s role in intervention and provocation of the armed conflict. Large international news agencies and media outlets, it said, “echo the US line”.

In a separate statement, CPP Founding Chairman Prof. Jose Maria Sison explained that it’s the US and UK who are “the most aggressive in providing weapons and military training to the armed forces of the Kyiv regime... accusing Russia of invading the Ukraine long before the current special military operation declared by Russia.”

Prof. Sison added that the US and NATO have been long obsessed “with a blitzkrieg to attack the Donbass region and provoke Russia.” As early as December 2021, Russia and the people’s republics of Donetsk and Lugansk in the Donbass region “have been forewarned of the aggressive plans of the US and NATO,” he said.

The US, Prof. Sison stressed, “has been making the war provocations to assert and reinvigorate its hegemony over NATO and Europe, favor its own oil interests, stop the Nord Stream 2 and prevent Europe from accessing gas from Russia, and advance its geopolitical interests in its inter-imperialist contradictions with Russia and China.”

The CPP pointed out that the US and its NATO allies aim to change the current imperialist division of the world in terms of trade and investment, as well as spheres of influence and hegemony. On the other hand, Russia's defense of the Donbass region and attacks against Ukraine's military facilities seek to preserve and strengthen the current division that favors Russian imperialist interests.

The CPP affirms that the US has been provoking Russia by pushing Ukraine’s inclusion in the NATO, allowing the US and its NATO allies to position their military forces on Russia’s borders. Military expansion into Ukraine is part of the strategic aim of the US to grab Russia's oil market in Europe for itself, the CPP said.

The peoples of Donetsk and Lugansk have been suffering from the relentless attacks of the Kyiv armed forces in years. The CPP warns that the people of Ukraine will also suffer as a result of the fascist Kyiv state waging war against the Donbass region, forcing the Ukrainian people and soldiers into an unjust war of genocide, aggression and territorial occupation. “There is danger that the flames of war in Ukraine and Europe will spread and bring gross suffering to the workers and people in the region.” **UP**



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