



Uhay

Espesyal na Isyu
OCT 2017

Opisyal na Pahayagan ng National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates-Youth

email: nnarayouth@gmail.com

twitter: @nnarayouth

Gameover nearing for bomberman Duterte

BEGINNING LAST SEPTEMBER 24, bombs have been dropped from the sky over the Banoi mountains of Lobo, Batangas. At least two civilians, a father and his young son, are confirmed dead because of the bombings.

At the same time, at least 400 families were forced to evacuate for fear of their safety – noise of explosions, shaking of the ground, strafing and threats from military men sow terror. Days after, fact-finding and relief missions by various organizations were denied entry to affected barangays by policemen and soldiers.

Bombs abound

The bombing and strafing started after an encounter between government troops and New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas. Soldiers practically attacked and harassed communities as they pursued the NPA.

The 730th Combat Group of the Philippine Air Force and 202nd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army, perpetrators of atrocities, are not alone in this brutal bombing campaign. Since Duterte ordered the "flattening of hills" last March, militarization intensified and numerous incidents of aerial bombings ensued affecting mostly rural communities across the country, from Abra to Bohol to Cotabato.

Most notorious perhaps was Duterte's threat to bomb lumad schools. Several of these alternative community schools were already forced to close down or suspend classes over extended periods of time because of military harassment. No actual airstrike against schools has happened as of yet, but it is a reality that schools have been strafed and burned down by state and paramilitary forces, while the killing of teachers and lumad leaders have occurred within school premises. Duterte's tactless pronouncement unleashed a sort of psychological bombardment. His words further emboldened troops to

intensify harassment against the rural poor. Thousands of lumad have been forced to evacuate yet again.

Meanwhile, bombings and military operations in Marawi City, raging for more than 200 days now, have already caused the deaths of hundreds, the forced displacement of more than half a million residents, and destruction of millions-worth of people's property. We are forced to swallow the extension of Martial Law in Mindanao up to December and the possibility of a nationwide expansion.

Attacks are also trained against institutions meant to check the President's powers such as the Ombudsman, Supreme Court and Commission on Human Rights, while brazen vigilantism is encouraged against supposed "enemies of state" with the creation of the Citizens National Guard. What was at first presented as emergency measures for a very particular "terror" problem has become normal policy for the general population. An open fascist dictatorship seems to creep closer and closer each day.

Self-destruction

With bombings, Duterte seems to adopt a "scorched-earth" strategy, a war-time policy which instructs the complete destruction of anything an enemy might find useful, including food and water sources, transportation, communication, even civilians. We are witnessing and experiencing methods similar to those considered brutal even during war.

Along this strategy lies the twisted logic of the drug war. The killing of thousands of impoverished drug suspects is deemed "necessary" to put an end to the country's supposed "drug problem." News about gruesome deaths have now become daily occurrence. Like temporary deafness caused by explosions, it's as if our senses are being shocked into disorientation.

More damning is the drug war's failure in arresting big-time drug trade syndicates. Duterte himself is now suspected to be behind these criminals -- his son Pulong is said to be involved in smuggling P6.4B-worth of shabu. Duterte's drug war resembles a bomb about to explode in his face – it is leading to his gradual isolation. A recent survey even revealed an 18-point drop in his approval ratings.

Nowhere to go

The problem with bombs is they do not discriminate. Bombs do not distinguish between armed combatants and defenseless farmers. In Marawi, "friendly fire" even annihilated at least two batches of government soldiers.

Duterte's total-destruction tactics also cause his own destruction. Bombs he unleashes from planes, from his rash mouth, and through the whole state machinery are bound to reduce his routes for maneuver. Filipinos are now aware of Duterte's drive to build an open fascist dictatorship. Bombs that Duterte brazenly throws around compel the people to forge greater unity against dictatorship and tyranny – an explosive force that Duterte and his fascistic and oligarchic allies have no chance of winning against.





Alam n'yo ba na pati eskwelehan, gahaman at ugaling haciendero rin? Pakinggan ang hinaing ng mga magsasaka mula sa grupong **Buffalo, Tamaraw, Limus (BTL)** ng Bukidnon na dinarahas at pinalalayas ng Central Mindanao University! Magkakampuhan sila sa harap ng DAR sa Elliptical Road, QC mula October 12 - 25. **Sa Linggo, October 15, maki-Luto! Laban! cook-out at pakain mula alas-10:00 ng umaga.**

12
THURS

Artista ng Bayan, Paano Lumalaban: A Discussion on the Role of Culture in Social Change
Palma Hall 118, University of the Philippines (UP), Diliman, Quezon City
1:00 PM-5:00 PM

Sinagbayan PUP Laboratory Auditions
Time and venue: To be announced
Go to fb.com/sinagpup for more information
Up to October 14, 2017

13
FRI

Lakbay Magsasaka Social Media Forum
Roots Katipunan, Unit 106, 307 Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City
4:00 PM-8:00 PM

16
MON

Launching of Coalition for Land Against Martial Law Oppression and Repression (CLAMOR)
University of Sto. Tomas, España, Manila
9:00 AM-12:00 NN

World Hunger Day and International Rural Women's Day
March from UST to Mendiola
1:00 PM-4:00 PM

#StopKillingFarmers Exhibit
Arts and Sciences (AS) Lobby,
UP Diliman, Quezon City
Up to October 20, 2017

18
WED

Lakbay Magsasaka Cultural Night
Freedom Plaza, Polytechnic University of the Philippines,
Sta. Mesa, Manila
6:00 PM-9:00 PM

19
THURS

Forum on Rural Women
Diliman Gender Office, UP Diliman,
Quezon City
1:00 PM-4:00 PM

20
FRI

Lakbay Magsasaka Cultural Night
AS Steps, UP Diliman, Quezon City
6:00 PM-9:00 PM

24
TUES

Lakbay Magsasaka
Grand Solidarity Night
Kampuhang Magsasaka sa Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR),
Elliptical Road, Quezon City
6:00 PM-9:00 PM

25
WED

Lakbay Magsasaka
March from DAR to Welcome Rotonda,
8:00 AM
Salubungan ng Manggagawa at Magsasaka, Welcome Rotonda, 9:00 AM
Protest Program, Mendiola, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

follow @nnarayouth on twitter | email: nnarayouth@gmail.com



#LakbayMagsasaka

Land, justice elusive after 45 years of Marcos bogus land reform

FORTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER the First Peasant Day was celebrated on October 21, 1972, we witness thousands of peasants, without a parcel of land to call their own, holding nothing but their will to fight in order to live.

In 1972, Marcos enacted Presidential Decree 27, the first agrarian reform law in the country requiring the lowering of land rates, also of the redistribution of land to its tillers. However, Marcos eventually used it as basis to justify the fascist measures he took against the growing peasant movement in the provinces.

Today, lands remain undistributed. Farmers remain landless. Landlords, including the Cojuancos and Aquinos, continue to deprive peasants of their right to the land they till. Worse, the government is directly or indirectly complicit in the displacement of peasants as it legitimizes the sell-out of our lands to foreign

companies. Most peasant killings occur in regions where there are land disputes between farmers and local landlords or big agribusiness and mining companies. The military kills peasant and community leaders to assist in the plunder of our environment and natural resources.

Even with existing agrarian reform laws, Filipino farmers remain the most neglected and marginalized sector in society. One year after Duterte's win as the President, his promise to fast track the distribution of agricultural lands remain stagnant.

Under the Duterte administration, with the implementation of Oplan Kapayapaan, peasants have become easy targets of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and its paramilitary groups. As of August 31, 81 out of 88 victims of political killings are peasants. From July 23 to August 30, 2017, in just a span of more than a month,

seven farmers have already been attacked and killed in Negros. Most of the victims were members or leaders of local peasant organizations. Also, just few weeks ago, the military showered bullets on peasants in the provinces of Batangas and Nueva Vizcaya where more than 100 families have evacuated.

On this month specially dedicated for peasant farmers, we join farmers and peasants in fighting and asserting for their right to work, their right to land, and their right to live. We call on the Duterte Administration to put an end to all attacks that endanger the lives of Filipino people – especially the lives of peasants. We demand a stop to aerial bombings and all forms of militarization in the countryside.

We call on the government to let our farmers live.

NNARA-Youth UP Los Banos