

# LIBERATION

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## Tony Tagamolila killed in Panay

Antonio S. Tagamolila, national democratic activist and former Philippine Collegian editor, was killed in an armed encounter with government troops in Aklan last Feb. 19.

Tagamolila was an active student leader and scholar during his college days at the University of the Philippines. He was a member of the Alpha Sigma fraternity.



TAGAMOLILA

As president in 1971-72, he revitalized the College Editors' Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) and led it into active participation in the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal cultural revolution then sweeping the streets and campuses of the country.

Further deepening his commitment to the cause of the people's emancipation, Tagamolila went to the countryside to integrate with the peasants upon graduating from the university.

His remains lay in state for several days at the U.P. chapel, where his friends and colleagues flocked to bid him a final goodbye. He was buried beside his similarly martyred elder brother, former PC Lt. Crispin Tagamolila, who defected to the New People's Army.

He was 24 when he was killed by the regime's soldiers.

"His death is heavier than a mountain," his fraternity noted in a published obituary. ©

## RUMS OF JOLO

In its bid to recapture Jolo from Muslim rebels, the government used jet planes, naval ships and howitzers to indiscriminately bombard the town, reducing it to ruins and killing and maiming thousands of civilians.

## 200 transport workers protest wage cut

CAVITE CITY — Some two hundred bus drivers and conductors of the Saulog Transit Inc. went on strike last Feb. 22 to protest the unfair deductions on their daily earnings.

The bus drivers and conductors were receiving 12 percent and 8 percent, respectively, for every ₱100 earned by a bus. A bus normally netted ₱400 a day, giving bus drivers and conductors a take-home pay of ₱46 and ₱32, respectively.

With the gasoline price hike and the fare increases, average daily bus earnings went up to ₱500. But instead of the expected increase in pay due to the bigger profits of the bus company, daily earnings were reduced from 12 to 8 percent for drivers, and from 8 to 6 percent for conductors.

Under the wage deductions, the bus drivers would now get only ₱40 a day, while the conductors' pay would get to ₱30.

"We wanted an increase in pay because the earnings of the company went up, but we got a deduction instead. They're killing us," the bus drivers and conductors complained.

The strike was referred to the

Department of Labor, to which the strikers also sent a petition for just wages.

The strike was still going on as of presstime.

## 4 more detainees break out of Davao camp

Four political prisoners escaped from military detention in Davao City in two separate incidents last Dec. 25 and Jan. 25.

This increased to eleven the total number of activists who have bolted the same military detention camp, according to Habagat, one of the most widely-distributed resistance papers in Mindanao.

Two activists were involved in each of the successful escapes. The two involved in the Dec. 25 breakout were Virgilio Villacillo and Fred Mendoza.

Eddie Mapano and Benny Sabay  
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## SURVEY SHOWS

# Benguet vegetable laborers get starvation wages

Baguio vegetables are sold at high prices in the markets of Manila and elsewhere — but the agricultural workers who tend the vegetable gardens of Benguet are paid as low as ₱1 a day.

This was revealed in a survey on the working conditions of vegetable gardeners in Trinidad, Natubling, Verac and Baguio, conducted by Pahayagang Bayan, a resistance paper based in Northern Luzon.

The survey also found that women workers are paid only ₱30 a month; a few receive ₱45 because they have been employed longer than others. At Camp 7 in Baguio, ₱45 a month is the highest wage paid out to women gardeners.

Male workers, on the other hand,

get from ₱40 to ₱60 monthly. After 20 years of service, one gardener in the Trinidad Valley was found to be receiving only ₱5 a day.

Working hours are oppressively long: 12 hours a day, Monday to Saturday, plus Sunday morning, with no overtime pay. From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., the gardeners hoe the plots, spray the plants, haul materials, break the ground and shoulder loads of vegetables.

The survey also found discrimination against women workers, who immediately lose their jobs if they get married. Some hide their being married, but must be careful not to become pregnant.

Discrimination against the women



# 150 cigarette workers defy 'straight time' rule

PARANAQUE, Rizal — 150 cigarette workers defied the "straight time" working hours in protest against the company's policy of operating the machines even during lunch and rest periods.

Last January 16, the workers stopped the machines when they took their lunch, an act prohibited by the management.

According to the workers, all of them missed lunch and virtually had no time for rest ever since the management implemented the "straight time" policy.

The workers informed the management that operations would cease under such an exploitative and oppressive policy. They also protested the over-strictness of their watchers who severely warn or suspend them without any reason.

In another development, 900 workers at the Manila Cordage and Elizalde Rope are suffering from big salary cutbacks because of the

intermittent shutdowns of the two companies.

These two companies are manufacturing 70% of the total rope production in the country.

The shutdowns started since last August, 1973 and since then, production has been regularly interrupted for as long as seven days per month, leaving the workers jobless for one week a month.

The shutdowns are believed to be caused by the shortage of abaca.

According to the workers, the abaca shortage was a direct result of the dictatorship's emphasis on exporting a large percentage of the best quality local fibers.

Among the foreign firms given priority over local companies is the Dexter Corporation of America, the biggest importer of Philippine abaca. It imported more than 125,000 bales of abaca in 1973 from the Philippines. (Anak Pags) ©

workers is apparently more profitable for the employers, who refuse to give maternity leaves with pay. Sickness benefits are also not given, despite the hard life and miserable working conditions.

Workers interviewed complained that their meals rarely included anything else besides vegetables. They described the housing facilities as "shameful" — they lodge in the same warehouses where fertilizers and vegetables are stored.

The workers also complained of the absence of clean water, forcing them to use the water from the irrigation canals, "which comes from the sewers of Baguio".

Proper toilets are not provided the workers, and to save on fertilizer costs, they are made to "do it" right in the garden plots.

The owners of the vegetable gardens in Benguet are mostly Kuomintang Chinese who have links with the Marcos regime. "These big capitalists control the whole industry, from the transportation to wholesaling of the vegetables, and even the sale of fertilizers and garden tools," Pahayagang Bayan said.

The Kuomintang capitalists are thus able to dictate high prices for the vegetables, despite the abundant supply.

The agricultural workers of Benguet continue to express basic demands which include just wages, job security, better working and housing conditions, overtime pay, free medical service and retirement pensions, the newspaper reported. ©

## 4 more...

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made good their escape on Jan. 5.

Seven other political detainees escaped last year.

The former detainees have gone to the countryside and rejoined the anti-fascist armed struggle, some joining the New People's Army.

The activists escaped, Habagat quoted them as saying, "to help the people in their struggle against... the US-Marcos dictatorship".

"The escapees expressed great relief in breathing the fresh air of freedom again," Habagat said. "Inside the detention camp, they suffered the most oppressive boredom listening to the sickening propaganda about the 'new society'."

Political prisoners in various detention camps in Mindanao maintain a high morale. They are well-organized and are able to keep up with the developments outside by means of links with the underground movement, Habagat said. ©



# Land Reform by the NPA

There has been a great change in the lives of the peasants in many barrios of Sorsogon. Before, exploitation was widespread and the peasants suffered a lot in the hands of cruel landlords. Now, however, the power of the landlords has been weakened, and the plight of the peasants has improved.

The change is the result of the revolutionary land reform and the armed struggle being waged in the countryside by the New People's Army.

## STORY OF ONE BARRIO

Take, for instance, a certain barrio in Bulan, Sorsogon. The barrio used to be a "little kingdom" of the landlord "Empoy" Gogola. He ruled the barrio folk with an iron hand. He collected rent which was way over half the harvest of his tenants. He forced the poverty-stricken peasants to borrow money from him at usurious rates. He forced them to render menial services without pay. On top of all



these, he made the tenants catch snakes, which were his favorite delicacy.

Gogola was able to impose his will on the peasants of the barrio because he owned the "legal" title to the lands covered by the barrio.

In fact, however, the barrio stood on public land, which was not the private property of anyone. The peasants cultivated these public lands and planted abaca. The peasants had been living peacefully in the barrio as abaca planters when Gogola entered the scene.

At that time Gogola was a town councilor at Matnog, Sorsogon. He gained notoriety as a councilor for stealing thousands of bags of cement allotted for public works, and making a lot of money by selling these in the black market.

Using his wealth and political

influence, Gogola grabbed the lands covered by the barrio. From then on he became the landlord and "owner" of the whole barrio.

## AN NPA CADRE

One day a cadre of the NPA arrived in the barrio. He patiently explained to the barrio folk the NPA's revolutionary land reform program. Reduction of land rent to 10% of the harvest and the elimination of usury were the minimum goals of the program. Its maximum aim was the confiscation and redistribution of lands of abusive big landlords.

With the help of the NPA cadre, the peasants devised a way to get their just share of the harvest. They took 90% of the harvest and turned over the remaining 10% to Gogola. The enraged landlord sought the aid of the PC in June, 1973, in an attempt to restore the old exploitative division of the harvest.

With Gogola at their head, a group of PC soldiers attacked the barrio. But the peasants of the barrio, who by now were well organized, repulsed the *sakya* (attack). Gogola and several PC troopers were slain in the armed encounter.

With the death of the landlord, the peasants reestablished possession over the barrio's lands. They tilled these collectively and divided the harvest equally among themselves.

The example of the barrio quickly spread to the neighboring barrios. More and more barrios in Sorsogon organized themselves with the help of the NPA to implement the

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## An alternative for new graduates

Graduation has always meant a turning point. Students who have hurdled years of study would assume various roles in society after graduation.

Under martial rule when the life of the entire people has been drastically transformed, graduation has deeper implications. It is no longer a matter of charting one's career that is involved. It has become a choice of allowing one's career to serve the oppressive regime or of orienting one's profession in the service of the people.

The past year and a half of martial law has shown the graduate how the educational system was perverted to promote the interests of a regimented "new society". It has impressed in him that under the martial law regime, one has to be a robot and fit into the social system where a few rule by force and decree while the many are coerced into submission and exploited.

From the suffocating atmosphere in the schools and colleges, the graduate assumes a more permanent role in a regimented society that is far more suffocating. In this kind of society, the professional, the employe or the unemployed is daily burdened with the problem of survival -- food, clothing and shelter. The harsh realities of life become more felt and an everyday concern in sharp contrast to the false hopes of a full career in a "prosperous and developing" society. High prices, the massive unemployment problem, the shortage of food and other commodities, the jockeying for positions in private and government offices, the increasing presence of the military in everyday life -- all these suddenly become more real.

It is precisely amidst these conditions that a people's movement has emerged to change the whole system of oppression deeply rooted in the whole nation and aggravated with the imposition of martial law.

This people's movement finds its concentrated expression in the armed struggle being waged by various groups in the countryside to overthrow the Marcos dictatorship. It likewise finds expression in the various underground organizations in the towns and cities ceaselessly carrying on legal and illegal struggles to resist the dictatorship.

The new graduates, who are about to start a career, have a role in advancing the people's movement. They can give direct or indirect support to the resistance groups,

armed or unarmed. They can make use of their professions or jobs to support, directly or indirectly, the people's revolutionary movement. What is important is that they orient their work in the service of the people and not of the oppressive martial law regime.

The teachers in public and private schools can restrain from propagating the lies of the dictatorship and instead encourage their students to be critical of the fascist acts and propaganda of the martial law regime. They can join legal teachers' associations and fight for economic benefits and academic freedom.

The doctors and nurses can orient the medical associations and institutions into caring for the poor and the needy especially the victims of state violence as those in Sulu and Isabela. They can protest the prohibitive prices of medicine and medical services imposed by giant drug firms and big hospitals.

The lawyers can defend the interests of the workers, the peasants and others against the exploitative big capitalists, abusive landlords and the government. They can involve their associations in questioning the oppressive and undemocratic acts and decrees of the martial law regime.

The businessmen can band together and fight the utter subservience of the regime to foreign monopoly capitalists as illustrated in the open-door policy to foreign investments. They can demand the genuine and absolute nationalization of strategic industries like oil, public utilities and banking.

The journalists and artists can refuse to have their works and talents used by the dictatorship. In their own subtle and creative ways, they can utilize the mass media and other cultural institutions to expose the daily manifestations and the rotten core of the bankrupt social system.

All of them, whether professionals or employes, can organize secret groupings with the aim of supporting the revolutionary forces in their own way. They can later on maintain links with the underground and perform more definite roles in the people's revolutionary movement.

Graduation is a turning point in one's life. It can mean starting out to serve the oppressive social system and the dictatorship or starting out to serve the people. ©

## Abra folk block airstrip project

BANGUED, Abra (BMP) -- Peasants of Modit, Dolores, this province, have united to oppose government moves to bulldoze their homes and farms to make way for an airstrip.

Hearing of the plan to construct an airstrip, the Modit peasants immediately presented a resolution to Mayor Danilo Zapata of Dolores, saying they would lose their homes and farms if the plan were implemented.

The mayor rejected the resolution and even threatened the Modit residents with outright confiscation of their properties.

The peasants then brought their case to Rep. Barbero, who agreed to meet them, together with Mayor Zapata and former Con-con delegate Arturo Barbero.

In a viva voce vote Rep. Barbero called, the Modit peasants overwhelmingly rejected the airstrip project with a resounding "No".

"Malawagi (It's clear)" the peasants said of the results.

Despite the peasants' unanimous opposition, however, it seems that the government has not abandoned the project. A bridge has already been constructed on the road to Modit, it was reported.

The Modit peasants are reportedly preparing to resist impending government moves to eject them by force. ©

## NPA... (From page 3)

revolutionary land reform program.

In their respective barrios, the peasants set up their own democratically chosen local governments -- the Barrio Revolutionary Committees -- to help them meet their collective needs. They formed self-defense units to protect themselves against the landlords and the PU. Some of the peasant youth joined the NPA.

### ATTACK ON THE BARRIOS

However, the landlords did not accept defeat easily. They called in more PC soldiers to attack the barrios and launch "search and destroy" operations against the NPA forces. They have been working feverishly to stop the NPA's revolutionary land reform and restore the feudal rule of the landlords.

But the peasants have not been cowed. With unbreakable determination, they continue to fight for the land which is rightfully theirs with the help of the NPA and its revolutionary land reform program. ©