

**DECLARATION OF STATEMENT OF THE RPM-P/RPA-ABB  
ON ITS OPPOSITION OF USING CHILDREN AS SOLDIERS IN  
ANY WARS & ARMED CONFLICTS**

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Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines

The Filipino masses have been experiencing and suffering for more than three decades from bloody armed conflicts among the Stalinist Maoist CPP-NPA-NDF and other armed groups who wage war against the Philippine government. Apart from its being destructive and endless war, these armed groups insensibly used the children as soldiers in these non-civil and militaristic engagements.

Thirty seven (37) countries, Philippine is one of it, are identified by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Funds (UNICEF) who employed children as soldiers in various wars and armed conflicts.

As corroborated by Amnesty International (AI), an international human rights group, about 300,000 children were recorded taking part in this senseless sacrifice of human lives. These children were utilized as regular combatants, performed military sabotage, laborer at military camp, messenger, spy agent and even sex slaves. One-fourth (1/4) of it can be found at the Southeast Asian and Pacific Region.

Particularly here in the Philippines, the New People's Army is one of the armed groups that perpetrated massive recruitment of minors among their ranks. In fact, according to our assessment between 15 and 18 percent of NPA's force are composed of children under 18 years old. Even until now this recruitment of minors were carried out by the CPP-NPA-NDF in their recent trainings camps.

Despite years of efforts by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and other similar institutions, the practice of child labor has continued to flourish due to poverty and lack of access to education. Further studies reveal that underdeveloped countries use children as soldiers to make up for the inferiority in warfare and logistical limitations in sustaining a war, and parties in armed conflicts that have lost popular support tend to resort to kidnapping and force military conscription of child soldiers in waging their unpopular war.

Along this prevalent used of children as military apparatus of different armed groups in these countries, the **Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa – Pilipinas and Revolutionary Proletarian Army – Alex Boncayao Brigade**, with its new orientation and direction guided by Marxist-Leninist principles, **DECLARE ITS STANCE OF UTMOST OBJECTION IN THE USE OF CHILDREN AS SOLDIERS**. It grossly violates the human rights of children as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other related treaties.

Furthermore, the RPM-P/RPA-ABB should unwaveringly work for the humanization of just and revolutionary wars and condemn these armed groups who sacrificed the human lives both on foot soldiers and civilians especially innocent Filipino Children.

In conformity with these general stance and calls, the following are particular beliefs and convictions of the RPM-P/RPA-ABB on this issue:

1. RPM-P/RPA-ABB believes that in pursuing revolutionary struggles for all human development and social progress, we must respect the lives of the people, uphold and promote human rights especially the right of a child to be spared from this senseless armed conflict;
2. RPM-P/RPA-ABB declares its utmost opposition and rejection of recruiting and using children for this senseless war and all other kind of wars, may it be revolutionary, just war or not;
3. RPM-P/RPA-ABB, as a genuine revolutionary organization, rejects the notion and practices that revolutionary ends or just causes for change justify inhumane means as espoused by the Stalinist Maoist CPP-NPA-NDF which implied in their defense of recruiting children into their ranks;
4. RPM-P/RPA-ABB believes that recruiting and utilization of children for combat or non-combat activities in wars are condemnable. It further believes that utilizing children as soldiers is the worst form of child labor practice the world has ever experienced; and
5. RPM-P/RPA-ABB offers the full support to all treaties and campaign against child soldiers and calls for the immediate complete stoppage of this practice. Also, the organization strive to integrate this campaign against child soldier to our ultimate goal of eliminating wars and all other causes of human suffering.

**STOP CHILD SOLDIERS, NOW!**

**EXPOSE AND OPPOSE ARMED GROUPS THAT  
USE CHILDREN AS SOLDIERS!**

**UPHOLD AND PROTECT BY ALL MEANS THE  
RIGHTS OF CHILDREN!**

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