



BRIEFING: Current US War Moves vs Rising Resistance Against the War Machine

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1. Overview

The US is pursuing rapid, multi-front military escalation, abandoning even any façade of "diplomacy" for all-out, overt war and preparations for more wars. Concurrently, forces fighting for liberation and just peace are strengthening globally, creating a decisive period of struggle against the US led war machine. The primary US objective is to maintain and expand its zones of influence and sources of cheap exploited labor as well as natural resources against its imperialist competitors. The "Peace Through Strength" or in other words subservience through coercion and war strategy detailed by Trump in his National Security Strategy released in November 2025 is now fully operational. Its manifestations range from direct intervention in Venezuela, imposing the so-called "Donoroe Doctrine" to secure markets that have turned to rivals like Russia and China, to the relentless military buildup in the Pacific and further extends to the continued funding of puppet and genocidal governments in West Asia, coupled with renewed threats of direct bombardment against Iran. This global imperialist offensive systematically targets and seeks to dismantle the international peoples' movements that challenge imperial dominance.

The purpose of this briefing is to synthesize relevant information on major developments across the fronts of US-led war currently, to help activists and our movement view the connections across the US strategy, in order to strengthen our people's response and resistance against US-led war. This is not an exhaustive list, and we encourage Resist US-Led War (RULW) members to update RULW with your analysis, actions, statements, and feedback as we move forward.

2. Situation Analysis: US-Led War Wars & Escalation

Latin America

Venezuela and the Militarization of the Caribbean

Overall Context:

The military aggression against Venezuela, the fascist violence and repression against migrants within the US and along migration routes, and the rising number of fascist regimes coming to

power and willingly placing themselves at the service of their US imperialist puppet master are all having dire impacts on the people of Latin America and the Caribbean. US drone strikes in both the Atlantic and Pacific have killed nearly 100 Venezuelan and Colombian fisherfolk and possibly migrants. Fascist crackdowns, especially in El Salvador under the US-backed Bukele regime, have led to mass arrests, trumped-up charges, and imprisonment in facilities referred to as modern-day concentration camps that rely on torture, starvation, medical neglect, and forced labor. Land grabs on behalf of transnational mining and agriculture companies displace peasants and indigenous peoples and force them to migrate into cities and abroad, where they face squalid living and working conditions as their means of production and livelihood are completely destroyed by imperialist plunder. The forced introduction of GMO seeds, livestock, and fish destroys biodiversity, while the climate crisis, paired with destructive over-logging of rainforests, leads to wildfires and flooding from soil compaction that amount to profit-driven disasters. All of these conditions will only escalate as the US further moves to implement its "Trump Corollary" to the Monroe Doctrine to seize more land and resources in its desperate quest to remain the imperialist superpower.

US Military Moves:

On January 03, the US perpetrated serious military aggression against Venezuelan territory and its people in the civilian and military areas of the city of Caracas, the capital of the Venezuelan Republic, and the states of Miranda, Aragua, and La Guaira in a blatant act of invasion, as well as kidnapped the lawfully elected President Nicolas Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores.

This latest intervention by the US, like so many before it in Latin America, has nothing to do with drug trafficking or the "defense of human rights." The true motive is to eliminate the Bolivarian Revolution that had been successful in breaking Washington's decades-long stranglehold over Venezuela and taking back the country's natural resources for its own people.

This campaign of terror is accompanied by a massive deployment of US military equipment and around 15,000 troops in the Caribbean. This includes but is not limited to the USS *Gerald R. Ford*, the US Navy's newest and most destructive aircraft carrier. Its capability to unleash its wing of approximately seventy-five advanced warplanes positions it as a primary platform for inflicting devastating aerial bombardments against the Venezuelan people.

The operation is having impacts on the larger region as well. On December 15th, Trinidad and Tobago's government announced it would allow the US military to use its airports, with equipment described as combat-ready and "far beyond anti-smuggling," putting yet another country in the crosshairs of a US-made war and using a puppet government to attack Venezuela. Furthermore, Trump 'decertified' Colombia in its 'war on drugs,' falsely claiming it had failed its commitments, while publicly accusing President Gustavo Petro of being a "drugs leader" and conducting strikes that resulted in extrajudicial killings off the Pacific coast of Colombia. In the Dominican Republic, US aircraft and personnel will be "temporarily deployed" to the country for refueling and moving equipment. The War on Drugs allows the ultimate financial beneficiaries of the drug trade to continue their business in the US and elsewhere, while the poorest peasant farmers, fisherfolk, workers, and the environment pay the highest price. These regional maneuvers are underpinned by the reactivation of a major strategic asset.

The US has reopened the Roosevelt Roads Naval Base in occupied Puerto Rico transforming it into a fortified launching pad for aggression. Satellite imagery exposes the staging of deadly weaponry at this base, including F-35 jets, helicopters, and the AC-130 gunship, solidifying it as the tip of the spear for the ongoing military siege against a sovereign nation.

The US also ramped up its threats and psychological warfare against other states in Latin America. Following the US military action in Venezuela that resulted in the capture of President Nicolás Maduro, Trump issued threats to the governments of Mexico, Cuba, and Colombia, indicating they could be subject to subsequent interventions.

The statements issued by the White House included:

On Cuba:

"I think Cuba is going to be something we'll end up talking about, because Cuba is a failing nation right now," Trump said when asked how the Caribbean country should be interpreting the Venezuelan operation. "We want to help the people. It's very similar in the sense that we want to help the people in Cuba, but we want to also help the people that were forced out of Cuba and living in this country."

On Colombia:

"He's (Gustavo Petro) making cocaine. They're sending it into the United States. So he does have to watch his ass."

On Mexico:

"We could be politically correct and be nice and say, 'Oh yeah she (Claudia Sheinbaum) is.' She is very frightened of the cartels," Trump said. "They're running Mexico. I've asked her numerous times would you like us to take out the cartels. 'No, no, no, Mr. President, no, no, no, please.' So we have to do something."

People's Resistance:

Contrary to Trump's declaration that he would "run" the country and allow US oil corporations to go in and "make money" off Venezuelan oil, the Bolivarian government stands strong. Supported by massive marches of thousands of Venezuelans demanding the release of President Maduro and condemning the US military intervention, the Vice President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, was sworn in as Venezuela's interim president in a parliamentary session that began with demands for the release of ousted leader Nicolás Maduro from US custody.

In Puerto Rico, an anti-bases protest movement is growing in response to US use of its land as the outpost to wage invasion on Venezuela. The protests draw strength from the historic anti-militarism resistance that expelled the US Navy from Vieques in 2003.

Protests have been initiated by progressive forces across the globe, carrying the calls against US intervention and to free the illegally kidnapped president of Venezuela. Resist US-Led War, along with its allies, is conducting a month of action calling on the people to Stand with

Venezuela and Against the US-Led Imperialist Offensive in Latin America and the Caribbean!
You can find resources for the month of action and join it at [here](#).

West Asia

Iran

Protests have been ongoing in Iran now since the beginning of January calling for government reforms to more efficiently manage the dire economic crisis caused in most part by the harsh US sanction regime against the Iranian economy. Shortly after shopkeepers began holding demonstrations in a handful of cities, things quickly escalated into violence as masked protesters began arming themselves and attacking police and civilians alike. As state forces mobilized to stem the violence, protesters leading these attacks began clashing with police and destroying government buildings, mosques, as well as private homes. Western media has been awash in reports of the supposed impending collapse of the Iranian government and greatly inflating the numbers of those killed at the hands of police while saying nothing of the violence and deaths at the hands of US and Zionist-backed provocateurs. Trump then made a direct threat saying that the US is "locked and loaded" if Iranian police kill protesters, mere days before Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials murdered a migrant solidarity protester in the US in cold blood.

Both US and Zionist officials immediately made public pronouncements via social media and in news interviews that Mossad and CIA-affiliated agents were on the ground advising the protesters and smuggling in weapons. Once again, this shows direct proof of the US and its main ally in the region "Israel" directly intervening to attempt to overthrow the government of Iran, their primary rival in West Asia, and reinstall a US puppet regime as they did in 1953. This attempt is similar to 2022 when genuine demonstrations for political reforms were coopted by US and Zionist-led agents that led to severe violence as provocateurs instigated violence and killed both civilians and state forces and the police enforced strict crackdowns to quell these concrete threats of imperialist regime change.

The current protests grew violent much faster than four years ago, but as of this writing (**January 18**) have also died down much faster than previous incidents. This is due in large part to the vast majority of Iranians, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or political standing, standing united in the face of the brutal 12-day war in which the Zionists and US launched a full-blown attack that killed hundreds, and continue to threaten more unprovoked attacks. This unity was shown in the nearly 6 million people who marched across Iran in state-led rallies alongside government officials and military leaders. While the Iranian people, like the people of any country, continue to debate the best way to develop their country and express their

self-determination, they remain overwhelmingly united in protecting that self-determination from foreign intervention.

Palestine and Lebanon

Zionist airstrikes continue unabated, in violation of all international law and ceasefire agreements, across southern Lebanon as "Israel" expands its de facto occupation. Zionist and US meddling within the fragile government of Lebanon has aimed at disarming Hezbollah, one of the most steadfast forces in the Axis of Resistance. to pave the way for a full surrender of all Lebanese land to foreign powers. Hezbollah, however, has steadily helped to rebuild the south of Lebanon while maintaining their strong links to their communities, refusing to give up their arms and leave their country defenseless despite the moves of Zionist and US-friendly politicians in the government.

In Palestine, the de facto annexation of the West Bank continues as new settlements are built and settlers attack Palestinian homes, stores, farmland, and even kill Palestinians through lynch mobs. Israel" continues its genocidal siege of Gaza, killing Palestinian people with airstrikes and gunfire, by blocking aid and denying entry of machinery for rebuilding, subjecting people to die of cold, disease, and starvation under complete media silence. The so-called "Trump Peace Plan" is attempting to recruit the militaries of other countries to volunteer their troops to assist in occupying Gaza and continuing the war against the Resistance to force its surrender.

This comes as Netanyahu took another trip to the US to beg Trump to launch new strikes against Iran, showing how closely connected the intervention attempts against Iran and the continued strangling of Palestine and Lebanon are to each other, with the ultimate goal of destroying the Axis of Resistance once and for all. Yet, the combined efforts of Iran, Hezbollah, and the Palestinian resistance have shown that resistance to Zionism and US-led war is strong and will never surrender the defense of the people of West Asia.

On January 16, 2026, the White House announced the formation of a "Board of Peace," chaired by Donald Trump and tasked with overseeing the postwar governance and reconstruction of Gaza. The appointments of key figures, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Jared Kushner, Steve Witkoff, and former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair, constitute another blatant violation of Palestinian sovereignty and a profound insult to its people and land. Many of those appointed have, for decades, supported policies that funded the genocide of the Palestinian people and contributed to the destabilization of West Asia by propping up the Zionist entity.

Syria

Syria has seen unending violence and ethnic cleaning of Kurds, Druze, Alawites, Christians, and other minority groups since former al Qaeda leader Mohammad al Jolani, now known as Ahmad Shara'a, came to power after years of waging a bloody campaign against the former Assad government with weapons and support provided by the US and Türkiye. This comes as

Shara'a closed multiple trade deals with "Israel," the Gulf Monarchies, the US, and the EU in exchange for the lifting of sanctions that had left the country's economy crippled.

Shara'a has unleashed a fascist offensive of mass terror against non-Arab and non-Muslim groups across the country while keeping the country open to US and Zionist military activity and imperialist investment. The already dismembered country now risks being further ripped apart by intensified foreign intervention fueling sectarian internal violence. Syria provides a stark example of what compliance with US-led war means for the people and is an urgent reminder of why the peace-loving people of the world must support the Axis of Resistance as the means to end the nightmarish conflicts being inflamed in West Asia.

Saudi Arabia + UAE tensions

As "Israel" continues its monstrous role as the unchained US attack dog in the region, the US's two other staunch rivals have recently drawn further apart and engaged in increasingly direct conflict with each other through their regional proxies. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are the two most powerful of the Gulf Monarchies, both acting as massive investment pools for imperialist bankers and sources of oil extraction.

While the two countries have benefited greatly from US patronage and hosted military bases and exercises, they have clashed for control of regional resources, port locations, and other avenues for economic plunder by supporting rival warring factions in the bloody Sudan war, stoked separatist movements such as in Somaliland where the UAE seeks a new port, and have even clashed directly with rival proxies in Yemen. The latter example shows that while these countries appear united in the attempts to defeat the Axis of Resistance (Ansar Allah in Yemen), their true interests lie in conquering new territory from the spoils of war, even if it means going to war with each other over it. This also shows the inherently disunited nature that the imperialists and their local attack dogs have amongst each other, versus the unity of the people in resistance fighting to defend their peoples' livelihood and sovereignty.

Europe

Danish-Occupied Greenland

While European governments continue to throw their full weight behind the ongoing Zionist genocide of Palestine and offered only lip service at other blatant violations of international law such as the US kidnapping of Venezuelan President Maduro, European leaders are now up in arms against Trump's threats to invade and annex Danish-Occupied Greenland into the US. This shows clearly that the European imperialists will only move against the US when it threatens to steal one of their last remaining colonies from them, proving that the age of inter-imperialist conflict over each other's colonial territories is far from over.

This comes as the Arctic is emerging as a heightened stage for militarization with new military bases and exercises being held by the US, other NATO countries, and also their rivals such as Russia and China, in the race for shipping routes, petroleum drilling, and rare earth mineral extraction. Rapid ice melting due to the climate crisis creates a new economic opportunity for

the imperialists and an excuse to provoke imperialist war, while the people most impacted by the same dire effects of the climate crisis are the indigenous people of Greenland who have long fought for their sovereignty from all colonial occupiers.

Ukraine

The Ukraine war continues to claim the lives of Ukrainian and Russian soldiers as well as many Ukrainian civilians. Just like in Gaza, Trump has proclaimed a "Peace Plan" that looks to profit from reconstruction while not addressing any of the root causes of the war to begin with. It only would exacerbate them by cementing US control over mineral deals in Western Ukraine while moving European soldiers into Ukraine as foreign "peacekeeping" troops.

EU countries are against Trump's peace deal as it would allow Russia to annex the Donbas where most of the fighting has taken part and where many coal and iron deposits still lie, and would fall into their sphere of influence if Ukraine were to join the EU. The EU took on a massive debt package to pay for more military aid to Ukraine to continue fighting the war against Russia, and does not like the idea of European troops enforcing a deal that the US authored without them.

Cracks in the NATO Alliance

The major rifts between the US and European imperialists over disagreements around Ukraine and potential military confrontation over Greenland shows that the cracks in the traditional Western imperialist alliances are fracturing, and the US is further isolating itself in its violent desperation to remain the world's biggest superpower, a position it is rapidly getting closer to losing. The EU maintains its existential conflict against Russia in Ukraine, but is frozen in inaction due to Trump's bilateral dealings with Russia as it flexes against a more powerful imperialist rival. The multilateralism of US-Europe harmony is disappearing as conflict between all imperialists sharpens, leaving NATO's history unclear.

While the end of NATO, the most dangerous military alliance in the world, has been the call of the peace-loving people of the world for over 75 years, some European countries have used the opportunity to renew calls for an "Army of Europe." This initiative, led by France, would only escalate the militarization of Europe and would undoubtedly bend the militaries of the continent to the will of the most powerful G7 countries like France, the UK, and Germany. Instead of calling for increased European militarization in a violent inter-imperialist conflict with the US over colonial and neocolonial territory, the people call for an end to both US and European imperialism as the cracks in the system widen with each stab in the back the warmongers give each other in their quest for profits. This is shown clearly in the plans already underway to carry forward the Resist NATO campaign against the 77th NATO Summit in Türkiye.

Africa

Nigeria

On December 25, 2025, US President Donald Trump announced via his Truth Social platform that US forces had executed multiple strikes against targets in northwest Nigeria. These airstrikes, conducted on Christmas Day, followed weeks of allegations by Trump and senior Republicans claiming Nigeria has enabled what they label a "Christian genocide." This marks the first confirmed instance of direct US military action within Nigeria's borders. The strikes killed nearly 100 people according to some observer groups and terrified farmers and herders whose livelihoods require them to venture out into open areas that could become the next US military target.

Beyond the inflammatory rhetoric of Trump and his administration, the situation in Nigeria cannot be reduced to simplistic and inflammatory narratives that try to justify violation of sovereignty of another nation. With a population exceeding 200 million and encompassing over 250 ethnic groups, Nigeria faces challenges that extend beyond ideologically-driven insurgencies to include deep-seated ethnoreligious conflicts. War has long plagued the fertile Middle Belt region, the area struck by Trump. While conflicts do exist, often between Muslim Fulani herders and Christian farmers from other ethnic groups, the conflicts are fundamentally driven by competition over dwindling land and water resources. The lack of resources is a direct result of the plunder by multinational corporations of the Nigerian people's resources, and therefore the root of this conflict is itself foreign imperialism.

As stated by the Black Alliance for Peace (BAP) in their statement on the situation: "The Trump administration's alleged concern for Christians is a transparent ruse for gaining a military foothold bordering the Alliance of Sahel States (AES). The 2011 U.S. destruction of the Libyan state gave power to these "jihadist" groups, who continue to serve U.S. interests by keeping Africa destabilized. The caretakers of the US-EU-NATO axis of domination are incapable of any such humanitarian regard. Palestinian Christians can attest to this. The U.S. has no right to attack anyone in Nigeria. As far as BAP and the USOAN — a network that consists of individuals and organizations throughout the African continent — is concerned the comprador leadership who do not genuinely represent the people, cannot give them permission to do so."

You can read the full statement [here](#)

Somalia and Somaliland

In an escalation of its colonial agenda, the Zionist entity of "Israel" has formally recognized the breakaway territory of Somaliland. This act, the first time any country recognized it, is intended to shatter African sovereignty and unity and extend US-"Israeli" influence deeper into the Horn of Africa.

The move was met with immediate condemnation across Africa and the world, with the African Union demanding its reversal. "Israeli" Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar ignored these statements, traveling to Hargeisa, capital of Somaliland, on January 6 to sign a memorandum focused on defense cooperation.

This region has suffered decades of conflict stoked by external powers. An "Israeli"--and by extension, US--military foothold in Somaliland empowers a client regime, raising the possibility of renewed aggression and attempts to seize contested land from Somalia.

This maneuver is a key component of a broader imperialist project to dominate West Asia and North Africa. For years "Israel" has speculated on the possibility of using Somaliland as a dumping ground for the Palestinian population of Gaza, forcibly displaced by Israel's ongoing genocide and settler-colonial war. Recognition paves the way for advancing the Zionist goal of erasing Palestine.

Furthermore, Somaliland is a strategic location for Israel's warmongering. It offers a potential launchpad for imperialism's next war of aggression, particularly against the resilient Yemeni people and the Ansar Allah movement, who have heroically stood against US-Saudi-Israeli siege and bombardment of their country because of their relentless support for the Palestinian peoples.

Thousands of people across Somalia took to the streets condemning the move and calling for unity in the face of a new attempt against their sovereignty.

Resistance Moves

Sahel states

The Alliance of Sahel States (AES) formally inaugurated its combined armed force, the United Force of the Alliance of Sahel States (FU-AES), at a ceremony in Bamako, Mali, on December 20, 2025. This development comes on the heels of an huge anti colonial victory in which the peoples of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger successfully broke the chains of French foreign military presence in their countries, effectively expelling these forces from their land. By ousting French occupation troops and establishing the AES, these nations delivered a strong blow to imperialist control in West Africa.

The FU-AES represents a break from the Western-controlled military frameworks that for decades served to enforce plunder and subjugation under the false banners of "counter-terrorism" and "partnership." The movement reached its peak days later at a landmark AES summit in Mali, concluding December 23, which served to further consolidate this withdrawal from the imperialist sphere of influence.

Asia Pacific and South Asia

Japan ramps up militarization in line with US strategy in the Asia Pacific

In November 2025, diplomatic tensions between China and Japan escalated sharply. The prompt of this was a statement by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, where she asserted that a potential Chinese assault on Taiwan might be interpreted as an "existential crisis" for Japan under its Peace and Security Legislation. This legal framework could authorize Japanese military action in a collective self-defense capacity. Reacting to this, Chinese Consul

General in Osaka, Xue Jian, posted remarks condemning the statement from the Japanese prime minister

Prime Minister Takaichi, facing parliamentary inquiry, declined to retract her statement, maintaining it aligned with Japan's established policy. Japan subsequently called on China to enact "appropriate measures" regarding Consul General Xue. China rejected this demand, instead insisting that Takaichi withdraw her remarks and implementing a series of countermeasures. These included issuing travel advisories, limiting cultural and travel exchanges, and halting imports of Japanese seafood. The conflict intensified into 2026, with China imposing additional restrictions on exports to Japan, notably on dual-use technologies and rare earth minerals.

These tensions come with increased militarization on Japan's end. On December 26, 2025, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Japan's cabinet authorized a 9 trillion yen (approximately US\$58 billion) defense budget for the 2026 fiscal year. This substantial allocation represents about 2% of the nation's total economic output. With this spending level, Japan ascended to become the world's third-largest defense spender, ranking directly behind the US and China. The Japanese government is increasingly abandoning its peace constitution to fit into the US-led war strategy to contain China, seeking to update its defense sector via international partnerships and weapons exports. A central initiative is the Global Combat Air Programme, a joint endeavor with Britain and Italy to create a next-generation fighter aircraft by 2026, backed by an allocation of approximately 160 billion yen (US\$1 billion). This program also encompasses the development of AI-piloted drones designed to operate in coordination with crewed jets.

In December, unions and anti-war activists, including members of the Resist US-Led War Movement Asia Pacific, held several days of action and assembly in Iwakuni, home to one of the largest US air bases in East Asia.

Over three days, unions from Japan, Korea, and other regions discussed strategies to unite labor and anti-war movements against rapid Asia-Pacific militarization, framed as part of Washington's confrontation with China. Participants mobilized against the base and engaged with local communities.

In a key event, workers, union members, and leaders from various sectors gathered to address the crisis of rising living costs amidst stagnant, low wages. Hideki Nitta of Peace Link shared the successes of anti-war organizing in Hiroshima, Kure, and Iwakuni. Keiko Tajima of the Care Workers Union highlighted the role of the working class in opposing militarism and war.

Operation Kagar in India Continues Its Indiscriminate Bombing, Killing and Suppression of the People and the Revolutionary Movement

For nearly two years, the Indian reactionary state has unleashed its brutal Operation Kagar, a fascist campaign of unprecedented scale aimed at annihilating the masses and crushing the

revolutionary movement. Its ultimate goal is to clear the land for further plunder of multinational corporations which the people have stood against.

Under Operation Kagar, an intensified counterinsurgency framed as a "national security" measure, sweeping crackdowns have devastated tribal regions and rural areas. Adivasis and peasants are subjected to military harassment, forced hamletting, aerial bombardments, and strafing operations. Civilians are routinely murdered and later framed as Maoist rebels in staged encounters; the elderly and sick are gunned down in broad daylight. Even children and infants are not spared by this terrorist policy.

The Narendra Modi regime's Operation SAMADHAN-Prahar, including the Surajkund scheme and Operation Kagar, openly borrows from the U.S. Counterinsurgency (COIN) playbook, deployed worldwide against people's movements challenging imperialist dominance. The United States and its NATO allies actively enable this war, lending "expertise" through joint military exercises, arms deals, intelligence support, and ideological warfare to crush people's resistance, both in India and beyond.

The most violent front of this war is in the mountainous regions of Central India. Long considered a bastion of the Maoist revolutionary movement, these lands are also the last untouched frontiers, holding rich mineral resources over which imperialism and the local ruling classes desperately hope to cling on to.

This offensive represents the desperate violence of a state and a ruling class fully integrated into the US-led imperialist order, seeking to extinguish the torch of people's resistance. It also proves, however, that people's resistance, including armed resistance, is intrinsically tied to the defense of the environment, sovereignty, and life itself. In the face of this savage attack, the revolutionary forces of India, led by the Communist Party of India (Maoist) and its People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), stand unbroken despite heavy losses.

US-Funded Armed Forces of the Philippines Bombs and Kills Peasants

Around 6 AM on January 1, 2026, combined forces from the Philippine Army's 76th Infantry Battalion, 68th Infantry Battalion, and the 5th Scout Ranger Battalion launched "strike operations" against suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Sitio Mamara, Barangay Cabacao, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro. The military reported three separate armed encounters during the operation.

Following these clashes, local witnesses observed four AFP attack helicopters descend on the area. The helicopters dropped a total of twelve bombs and conducted sustained aerial strafing. The indiscriminate bombardment resulted in a civilian massacre, killing three Mangyan-Iraya children and wounding their mother. The attack also claimed the lives of Jerlyn Rose Doydora, a university researcher from Manila, and another youth researcher, both of whom died from injuries sustained in the bombing.

The civilian population, primarily Mangyan-Iraya Indigenous Peoples, endured severe trauma from the three-hour aerial assault. The bombs destroyed vital crops and farmland, killing two

cows and three carabaos (water buffaloes), crippling the community's means of subsistence. According to local government data, the attack forcibly displaced 769 individuals, who were evacuated to a local high school.

This massacre adds to the long list of war crimes and human rights violations perpetrated by the AFP against the people of Mindoro. It follows the pattern of state terror seen just days earlier, on December 23, when former mayoral candidate and anti-corruption campaigner Monet Alcantara was abducted from his home and slapped with fabricated charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Despite these savage attacks, the Filipino peasant movement continues to resist the brutality of the US-backed and US-trained Armed Forces of the Philippines, waging campaigns to reclaim their land and defend against the landgrabs that the Mindoro airstrikes and all other counterinsurgency campaigns are ultimately in service to. The Filipino people and peasant movement achieved a great victory when Amanda Echanis, peasant advocate and national democratic activist was released after 5 years in prison due to a widespread mass movement to win her freedom.