

# Philippines Australia Solidarity Group NEWSLETTER

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## JUSTICE FOR TADEO JUSTICE FOR ALL PEASANTS

Jaime "Jimmy" Tadeo, National Chairman of the Peasant Movement of the Philippines (Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, KMP), arrested on trumped up charges on May 10, was jailed at the National Penitentiary the next day for a period of 4 to 18 years imprisonment in connection with a case of 'estafa' (misappropriation) originally brought against him by the late ex-President Ferdinand Marcos.



Tadeo in an open letter to his friends and colleagues, writes about the 'estafa' case:

"In April 1982, the first civil and criminal cases against me were brought to court by Marcos' lawyers owing to the failure of our farmer's co-operative to pay back the National Grains Authority (NGA) some P127,500 worth of rice. Long before this, our co-operative had been losing money, and the NGA was partly to blame for this.

It was why I was recruited by the CBAMC (Central Bulacan Area Marketing Co-operative) as general manager - to help the co-operative turn back the loss.

"In small installments, we were able to pay the NGA until the CBAMC warehouse was hit by fire, turning to ashes all the farmers' palay. Ironically, the NGA did not lose a centavo, it even profited from the insurance money it collected from the Government Service Insurance System; the money even covered the cost of the NGA's "yellow" or spoiled grains.

"We discovered through investigation that the fire was an arson committed by the traders in collaboration with Marcos' and then NGA Administrator Tanchanco's men, to sow disunity among the peasants of Central Luzon. The fire suspiciously occurred two days after the AMGL (Alliance of Central Luzon Farmers) staged its first protest rally during Marcos' rule.

"Unfortunately the five AMGL organizers who investigated the CBAMC warehouse fire and who could have shed light on the case were murdered by military men on June 21, 1982. They were made to appear as the casualties of an encounter between the military and the NPA in Plaridel and nearby towns."

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EARTHQUAKE REPORTS PAGE 2

## EARTHQUAKE REPORTS

### "Malaya" July 20th

Rescuers yesterday gave up hope of finding any more survivors in the rubble of the Hyatt Terraces and Nevada hotels in Baguio City even as British and American teams used to no avail sophisticated heat-seeking equipment to find survivors. Steady rains made the job of looking for survivors treacherous as rescuers gingerly used picks, shovels and their hands to claw at shattered concrete, pausing every few minutes to listen for signs of life.

Heavy rains and fog hampered airlift operations of food, medicine and rescue equipment to Baguio and stranded at least two foreign rescue teams. City Health Officer Loreta Garcia expressed fears of more fatalities in Baguio as she warned of an epidemic because of the lack of medicines, food, water, shelter, and unsanitary conditions.

Those who have nowhere to go are living in makeshift tents at Burnham Park and other open spaces, threatened by gastroenteritis, typhoid and cholera. Bodies were lined up along Kennon Road, but they could not be retrieved because rescue teams could not get up the road, sealed off for four days by landslides.

The report that Nueva Viscaya was also affected by the earthquake surfaced only yesterday when refugees descended on Nueva Ecija. Persons have been reported killed in buses, cars and trucks buried in landslides along the 50 km stretch of the Maharlika Highway from San Jose City in Nueva Ecija to Santa Fe town of Nueva Viscaya. Landslides have totally closed the highway leading to Cagayan Valley in Dalton Pass.

Rolando Arrivillaga, World Bank representative in Manila, said the bank was willing to help finance reconstruction of infrastructure but no amount had been fixed. "The amount will depend on what kind of work will have to be done and we will have to make an assessment on what the damage is and how much it will cost to make this (infrastructure) work again."

### "Philippine News and Features"

July 22nd

The mountain region's Bishop Ernesto Salgado pointed out, the disastrous impact of the recent tragedy was compounded by the fact that most of the region's forests have been cut. The landslides that followed the earthquake might not have occurred if the trees and mountains were still intact. Along Kennon Road the rocks and boulders that fell came from denuded mountains.

### "People's Journal" July 22nd

Five days after the earthquake, officials said reports of damage and deaths were still trickling in from remote areas of Bagio and its neighbors. Heavy casualties have also been concentrated in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, where more than 60 students and teachers were killed in the Christian Colleges of the Philippines.

### "Manila Bulletin" July 22nd

"The New People's Army (NPA) declared a unilateral ceasefire in Northern Luzon, Central Luzon and the National Capital Region and ordered its units in the disaster areas to participate in rescue and relief operations.

They will temporarily hold their military operations against the government to join the common effort of rescuing victims of the quake and recovering bodies of those who died, especially in areas not reached by government personnel and volunteers.

The NPA Northern Luzon Command said the "earthquake ceasefire" is limited to those provinces and areas affected by the calamity."

### "Malaya" July 28th

A total of 1,609 persons has been confirmed dead in the Cordillera Autonomous Region and the National Capital Region. There were 3,301 confirmed injured. Clearing of Kennon Road and Marcos Highway would take about 3-4 months. Damage to public works alone has been placed at P6.7 billion, with Central Luzon the hardest hit. Government financial advisers said the country's creditors may extend additional borrowings initially estimated at P4.7 billion.

## INTERVIEW: ZENAIDA DELICA PART II

During her visit to Brisbane in May, Zenaida Delica, the Executive Director of the Citizens' Disaster Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) in Manila, talked to Kerry Thatcher on the 4ZZZ Radio programme Megahertz.

4ZZZ: What do the children die of?

ZENAIDA: Due to measles, and malnutrition, diarrhea, pneumonia.

4ZZZ: People have also said that the state of the environment in the Philippines in rural areas especially, plays a major part in the problem, would you agree with that?

ZENAIDA: Yes, because geographically we are already located in the typhoon belt. That means we're experiencing around 19-20 typhoons a year and we're also prone to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, flood and soil erosion. Soil erosion due to the massive deforestation effort in the Philippines because of this illegal logging. So, environmentally, we are prone to disaster due to the massive neglect of the environmental condition. So this makes the Filipino people even more vulnerable to disaster.

4ZZZ: What proportion of the population in the Philippines would you call "poor".

ZENAIDA: 70 per cent of the population is under this poverty level, or poverty threshold. Around 200 families of the 5% elite own around 53% of the nation's wealth - about that figure.

4ZZZ: What do you hope to achieve from your Australian speaking tour, Zenaida?

ZENAIDA: Well, of course, to inform the Australian public and the Filipino people who are presently here in Australia about the Philippine situation and, hopefully, to generate support either morally or financially from Australians and of course from Filipinos. To share this support to the vulnerable people of the Philippines.

4ZZZ: What can Australians do to help?

ZENAIDA: Well, there are many ways, aside from financial help. They can be a pressure group to the Philippine government; to lobby to the Philippine

government to stop this total war effort or 'approach' and, of course, a pressure group to improve the economic situation in the country. And, I think the Australian government is one of the supporters of the present Aquino government. Of course I'm not discouraging this support, we appreciate that, but for this support to be used to counter insurgency, for us is no good, because it results in massive evacuation, etc. But if this support would go into development projects, we would very much appreciate that kind of support. Australian people can do a lot in pressuring their government to pressure the government of the Philippines. Maybe it's a long way, but it can help, because our effort in the Philippines is not enough.

### LINGAP-PINOY PHILIPPINE HELP CAMPAIGN

Qld. Co-ordinator: P.O. Box 633,  
Capalaba Qld 4157.



## SEPT 16, 1990 - SOLIDARITY APPEAL

### RITA BAUA - ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON PEACE & DEVELOPMENT

In July, Rita Baua, Deputy Co-ordinator of the Manila-based Asia Pacific Forum on Peace and Development (ASPAC), visited Brisbane. The following is an excerpt from her interview with Kerry Thatcher on the 4ZZZ Radio programme Megaherz.



RITA: I'm in Australia for a study tour of all the peace groups in this country - to learn more from their objectives and methods of work. At the same time I'm here to solicit international support for our campaign to remove the U.S. bases in the Philippines. I'll be here for over two months.

4ZZZ: What is the state of play at the moment in the Philippines in regard to the bases negotiations?

RITA: On May 14 there were exploratory talks between the Aquino government and the United States. It was supposed to be exploring the possibility if they would talk again about the status of the bases in the Philippines. So, the talk has been suspended and we don't know exactly when will be the next exploratory talks.

4ZZZ: How much time is there for the Philippines to make the decision about the 25 U.S. bases?

RITA: The military bases agreement between the U.S. and the Philippines ends next year Sept 16, 1991 but the announcement should be made Sept 16th, 1990. Not only the announcement, but also the process of dismantling the entire 25 bases, should start from that announcement of the termination of the agreement.

4ZZZ: Do people in the Philippines want to get rid of the bases?

RITA: There is a growing sentiment for the removal of the bases. In fact, even those who say that they are for the bases give qualifications - for example, they want the bases to stay provided they give us \$2 billion.

4ZZZ: Is the U.S. government prepared to do that, do you think?

RITA: The U.S. has been floating the idea that they are willing to give up Clark Air Base. But they are very quiet about giving up Subic Naval Base.

4ZZZ: Apparently there have been problems in coming to some sort of agreement on a payout of aid to the Philippines and that's where I hear that negotiations have broken down. Is this true?

RITA: The Philippine government claims that they're discussing the national interest. But we feel that the national interest to them means, how much will the U.S. give them per year for military aid. But the U.S. government says that they cannot give as much because they are also suffering from budgetary constraints. So the talks would now boil down to really how much should they get per year.

4ZZZ: There are people in the Philippines who object to the bases continuing their stay within the Philippines after Sept 16, 1991 - who are these people and what are they doing?

RITA: There are so many initiatives being done by different political forces, political groups, parliamentarians, church people, church personalities and other ordinary citizens. Right now there is a wide campaign to talk about the bases. Because many people in the Philippines still do not know: what is a military base, what is the role of the U.S., what is the history, what are the dangers of having a military base inside the country, what is its effect in the region. So, right now the concentration is on a very broad campaign all over the country. And all of these initiatives are being done so that by the time Sept 16, 1990 comes, at least most of the people will be aware of what is the role of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

4ZZZ: Apparently people have been marching and picketing and doing a lot of actions outside the U.S. Embassy in Manila as well. Can you tell me something about that and what's been happening to those people?

RITA: Part of the nation-wide campaign for the removal of the U.S. bases is that we have mobilizations which are conducted nation-wide. So, in Manila we have regular

picketing in front of the U.S. Embassy. If it's in Cebu or Davao City in Mindanao it is in front of the U.S. Consulate. So this is happening almost every day. And, I should not forget the regular picketing of the main base in the Philippines, Clark Air Base. The picketing has been very regular and it's done by different groups, mostly by the students. They go there almost every day. If not youth, the women. If not women, then church people. If not church people, then workers. Last May 1 for example, there was this very huge rally of workers, who were about 80,000 people, marching against the presence of the U.S. bases.

4ZZZ: Are people exploring alternatives to any livelihood that is created by the presence of the bases?

RITA: Another part of the nation-wide campaign against the presence of the bases is that there is a group of people from different organizations of different class interests who are now talking of alternatives to the presence of the U.S. bases. So we have here businessmen, fishermen, urban poor, workers, peasants, indigenous people especially. They are discussing in detail what would they do when the bases leave. For example, what business will the businessmen put up? How many hectares of land would the farmers use and what kind of crops would they plant? And, what will the indigenous people do when they settle again on their land?

4ZZZ: What do you think is the effect for the Philippines and for the Asia-Pacific of keeping the bases? What do you think are the consequences?

RITA: When I talk about the U.S. bases in the Philippines it's always in the context of the situation in the Asia-Pacific. Because in previous years the bases in the Philippines have been used for intervention in conflicts - for example: Viet Nam, Iran, Korea, in China itself, in the Indian Ocean. So, as long as the U.S. bases stay in the Philippines we can never be considered as a friendly country to any nation around us or even the whole world itself. So, the presence now of the bases in the Philippines is a threat to any country in the region.

4ZZZ: You've just attended a conference in Melbourne that dealt with a lot of these issues. What came out of that conference, what resolutions or actions?

**AREA OCCUPIED BY THE FIVE MAJOR  
U.S. BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES:**

Clark Air Base	55,000 hectares
Subic Navel Base*	26,000 "
San Miguel Navel Com-	
munications Station	2,896 "
Camp John Hay	396 "
Wallace Air Station	157 "

\* includes 11,000 hectares of restricted waters around the base.

There are a further 20 minor military communication facilities.

RITA: I attended the ASPAC 1990 conference in Melbourne last July 4-8. There were several workshops on issues which affect the entire region. One of the workshops talked about the removal of foreign bases in the region. And in those discussions we mentioned different activities that would happen in the region to raise the consciousness of the people regarding the presence of the foreign bases. In that workshop we suggested that there be some dates on which the whole region should be mobilized to stress the removal of the foreign bases. So one date that was given by me was Sept 16, 1990 on which the Philippines would like to ask the whole world to give support for its campaign to remove the bases in the Philippines. Therefore, on Sept 16, 1990 we would like the peace groups all over Australia and other parts of the world to conduct an activity to remind their followers about the presence of the foreign bases.

4ZZZ: Why did you choose Sept 16, 1990 as an important date?

RITA: Under the military bases agreement, on Sept 16, 1991 such an agreement ends. So a year before that we would like to conduct this activity mobilizing the whole world. In Manila, for example, I foresee a big mobilization, possibly a big march/rally in front of the U.S. Embassy. And, of course, there will be some mobilizations in front of Clark Air Base and in other consulates in Davao City, Cebu City, Baguio City. Of course while we do that nationally we expect therefore many groups all over the world to be doing different kinds of activities on the same day.

(Contd on page 6 ►)

## ASPAC

(← Contd from page 5)

4ZZZ: Apart from peace and disarmament within the Asia-Pacific and throughout the world, what's the special issue here at stake for the Philippines?

RITA: Central to the Filipino mind is the idea of national sovereignty. In other words, as long as the U.S. bases are in our country we shall never really be called a self-determining kind of people. There will always be that presence to remind us that we cannot really do anything among ourselves because the bases are there, the entire machinery of the United States is there pressuring any government to do what it wants. So, if the bases go, then we can do many things in the land that they occupied. We can really be free and we can really establish friendly relationships with any country in the world. So, what is very important to us now is our sovereignty - the right to be self-determining.

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONDEMNS PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands -- The European Parliament (EP) in a July 12 session at Strasbourg, France passed a nine-point resolution condemning "continuing violations of human rights" in the Philippines and calling on the Manila government to "end its total war policy" and "disband paramilitary units and (armed) vigilante patrols."

In calling for an end to the Aquino administration's total war policy, the EP resolution suggested that her government "concentrate efforts on tackling social and economic problems, such as the widespread poverty, which are partly responsible for the continuing armed conflict."

The EP also called on its ASEAN delegation to raise the issue of human rights violations before Philippine authorities, and suggested that bilateral aid be withdrawn and rechanneled to non-government organizations with a record of support for the aspirations of the poor.

Philippine News and Features: 15 July 1990

## TADEO

(← Contd from page 1)

On April 25 the Philippine Supreme Court upheld Tadeo's conviction by a Bulacan court in 1987 for estafa. The Supreme Court denied all motions for reconsideration and upheld the Regional Trial Court ruling without stating the merits of its decision.

Tadeo's colleagues in the peasant and people's movement believe he was framed. After the civil case was dismissed in 1985 for lack of evidence, Tadeo's counsel, the late Jose Diokno, moved for the quashing of the criminal suit. The finding in the civil case should have been conclusive in the criminal case as the very same evidence and arguments were used by the government for both. The court in the civil case found that there was no evidence to show that Tadeo personally misappropriated the shortages.

"Our Chairman is not a criminal, but he is being billed as one by a desperate government which is fast losing popular support from the people. Tadeo is being persecuted by this government for speaking in behalf of millions of landless tillers who want nothing but social justice. He has exposed and criticized numerous officials in government including the presidential family for subverting the essence of genuine agrarian reform. Despite risk to life and limb, he fought for what is right and just, something the Aquino government and the elite class it represents detest most."

Rafael Mariano, Vice-Chairman, KMP - 17 May 1990.

Tadeo's arrest comes at a time when the peasant movement is gearing up for more vigorous mass struggles following significant developments on the Philippine agrarian front.

On May 3, a week before Tadeo's arrest, a mass mobilization of peasant groups under the banner of the Peasants Forum held a symbolic closure of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). They had announced publicly that there would be no co-operation with the government's agrarian-related projects and programs because of its bias in favor of the landed elite and the failure to implement land reform.

The police, at first, said Tadeo was arrested on charges of "public disturbance" for the May 3 incident because KMP members threw mud and red paint at the doors of the DAR. Then the government moved quickly and jailed him at the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa on the 1987 conviction of estafa.

"We regard the arrest of Ka Jimmy as another desperate tactic of the US-backed Aquino government to suppress the right of the Filipino peasantry in charting their destiny as the backbone of this nation. The act tends to quell the voice of the peasants and of the people in their sovereign right to be free. We believe that the arrest of our nationalist leader is a way of curtailing the sentiments of the people on the land and the bases issues during the exploratory talks. This manifests the abhorrent attitude of the present dispensation in attacking its own people for the interests of its imperialist masters. While our leaders cry for 'Peace, Peace', the sword of war is pierced deep into the peoples' hearts. We are thus called upon to be on the side of the oppressed and the struggling people."

EFCR - Ecumenical Forum for Church Response,  
PCPR - Promotion of Church Peoples' Rights,  
BCC-CO - Basic Christian Community Organizing,  
RMP - Rural Missionaries of the Philippines,  
SPI - Socio Pastoral Institute

22 May 1990

The KMP will appeal for the United Nations to invoke the optional protocol on Civil and Political Rights (to which the Philippine government is a signatory). One of Tadeo's lawyers said, "the UN can reverse the Supreme Court ruling and order the Philippine government to release Tadeo."

Affirming the peasantry's confidence, Tadeo was unanimously reelected Chairman of the KMP during its third national congress held May 13-15.

The KMP asks that we:

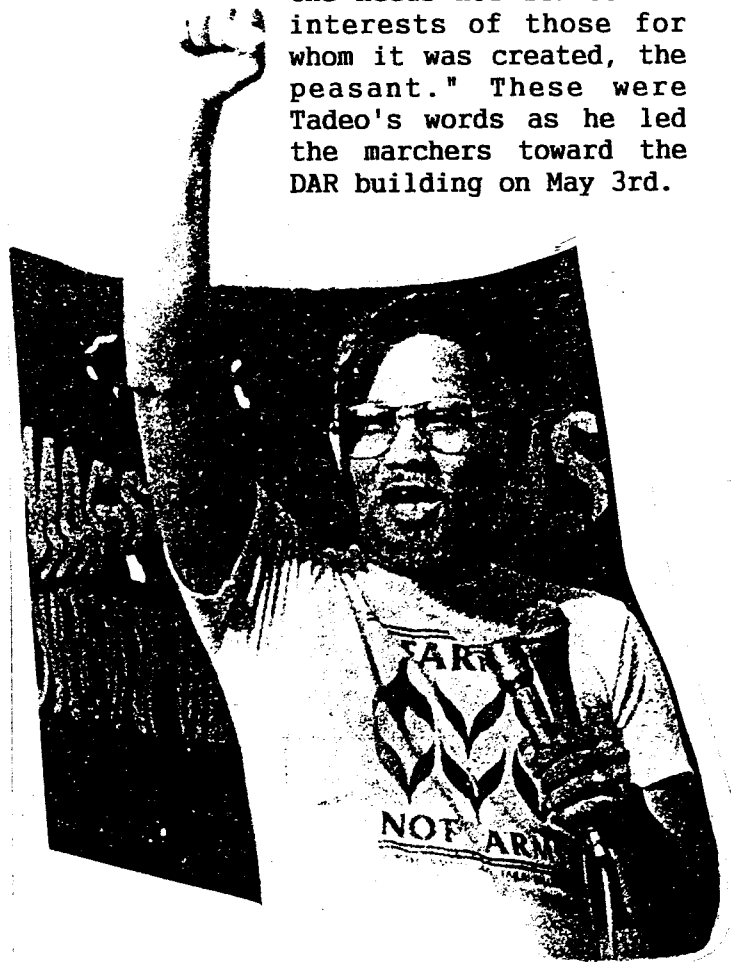
1. Lobby Australian politicians to press the Philippine government for an impartial inquiry into the case;
2. Send appeals, inquiries, or statements to the Philippine Dept of Justice, Supreme Court, Dept of Foreign Affairs, and the President;

3. Request the Philippine government review the case and reopen judicial proceedings on the charges; and
4. Request President Corazon Aquino to undertake the immediate and unconditional release of Jimmy Tadeo.

The National Penitentiary is a prison for hardened criminals and Jimmy is being held under maximum security. Cory has ordered that he has no contact with other prisoners and is not even allowed to attend bible study. Visitors should try to get permission to see him by contacting the KMP office.

Please send whatever support you can generate for Jimmy and his family to the KMP office: 210 Kaimo Building, 101 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Pay cheques to: Bank of the Philippine Islands Acct. No. 305-022-257, Foreign Currency Deposit Unit, West Triangle Branch, Quezon City, Philippines.

The KMP 'closed' the DAR by padlocking its front door. "We are closing this building because it no longer addresses the needs nor serves the interests of those for whom it was created, the peasant." These were Tadeo's words as he led the marchers toward the DAR building on May 3rd.



**FARMS NOT ARMS!**



## P.A.S.G. REQUESTS YOUR SOLIDARITY ON SEPTEMBER 16th 1990

Leases for the U.S. bases in the Philippines terminate in 1991. The campaign in the Philippines to see that the U.S. bases are removed once and for all will be especially crucial over the months ahead for the entire Asia-Pacific region. Their removal will help to restore peace, freedom and sovereignty to the Philippines and would be a significant achievement for all of us who are working for peace and social justice in our Asia-Pacific region.

In the lead-up to closing the U.S. bases in the Philippines, the date of Sept 16, 1990 will be very significant because the Aquino government must give the necessary one-year notice by that date for the U.S. to actually remove their bases in 1991. To symbolically commemorate Sept 16, Filipino anti-U.S. bases campaigners request that we all send a forceful message to the Aquino government to cancel the lease and not re-negotiate for the U.S. bases to stay in the Philippines. Personally or collectively making Sept 16, 1990 a day to approach the Aquino government, or the Hawke government or the U.S. government and letting them know the U.S. bases should be removed, will be taking action for peace for us all.

### IF THERE IS A RED X ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRED WITH THE LAST ISSUE!

At its state meeting in March 1990 PASG Qld decided to offer two ways of receiving its bi-monthly publications. You can either become a member of PASG Qld for \$20 per year or just subscribe to Philippine Issues and the PASG Qld Newsletter for \$15 per year.

PASG Qld. aims to generate support in Australia for all Filipino organisations working for genuine democracy, freedom and sovereignty; to end Australian military aid to the Philippines and to oppose all forms of foreign intervention in the affairs of the Filipino peoples. PASG Qld. holds regular monthly meetings. For further information contact Chris Bush on (07) 377 4029 or write to the address below.

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ATTENTION: PASG Co-ordinator, P.O. Box 174, St. Lucia 4067 Qld.

I would like to: ☐ have more information about PASG. ☐ make a donation of \$..... for solidarity work.  
☐ join PASG (including a one year subscription to the PASG Qld. Newsletter and Philippines Issues). I enclose \$20.  
☐ receive a one year subscription to the PASG Qld. Newsletter and Philippines Issues. I enclose payment of \$15.

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