

# Philippines Australia Solidarity Group NEWSLETTER

(Queensland Edition)

Vol. V No. 4

July-August 1991

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## REJECT THE NEW TREATY! ASSERT PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY!

On the streets of Manila the people are saying: "THE MOUNTAIN IS DOING WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO - REMOVE THE U.S. BASES."

The sixth round of the Philippine-American Cooperation Talks collapsed on May 4 when the negotiating panels seemed irreconcilable on the sensitive issues of compensation and duration. Within the week, the US agreed to the Philippine demand for US\$825 million annually. But now, in mid-July, negotiations are open once more.

The U.S. says it has tentatively decided that Mt. Pinatubo has rendered Clark Airbase unviable, but it might like ten years continued use of Subic Naval Base after the current agreement expires on September 16, 1991.

guise of consulting the people before submitting the agreement to the Philippine Senate.

As mandated by the Philippine Constitution, the Senate has sole power to ratify a Treaty and, if the Congress so desires, may submit it to the people for approval in a referendum. The Aquino government has already expressed its intention to actively campaign for ratification of a new treaty under the

BAYAN's affiliate member organizations and the anti-Bases movement are now focussing lobby work in the Senate of the Philippines.

BAYAN is asking for our support at this crucial stage of Philippine national life. We are requested to send letters of appeal to Philippine Senators urging them not to ratify the new Treaty, and to make public their commitment to work for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. bases as an urgent priority. See page 2 for a list of Philippine Senators and their respective telefax numbers.

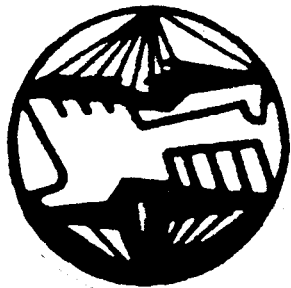
### MT PINATUBO VICTIMS NEED OUR HELP

Some non-government organizations that can channel your financial contribution directly to those in need:

- ▶ BAYAN, Attn: Task Force Relief & Rehabilitation, Room 215, FMSG Bldg., E. Rodriguez Ave corner New York St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines.
- ▶ Citizen's Disaster Rehabilitation Center (CDRC), 114 Scout Limbaga, Quezon City, Philippines.
- ▶ Community Aid Abroad, Attn: Philippines Volcano, Albion Centre, 102 McDonald Road, Windsor, Qld 4030.
- ▶ Philippines Australia Christian Forum Aeta Appeal, c/- TUCAR, 1st Floor, 300 Sussex St., Sydney, NSW 2000.
- ▶ Lingap Pinoy, Mt Pinatubo Appeal, C/- Kabalikat Incorporated, P.O. Box 633, Capalaba, Qld 4157.

**HIROSHIMA DAY  
RALLY KING GEORGE SQUARE  
BRISBANE**

**2.30 pm SATURDAY, AUGUST 3rd  
March to Botanical Gardens:  
Stalls, Speakers, Music**



Citizens' Disaster Rehabilitation Center

# PINATUBO UPDATE

On June 8 when the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology declared a Level 4 Alert that Mt Pinatubo would have a major eruption within 24 hours, CDRC began emergency operations.

First, it evacuated some of the threatened communities, activated its response networks, and set up 3 local operations centers. They are monitoring the disaster while assisting and even managing some evacuation centers. The local centres' tasks are to procure, transport and distribute relief goods, as well as give emergency assistance to the many displaced people who cannot be housed in evacuation centers overcrowded since last year's earthquake and recent typhoons.

As at June 16, CDRC had released a total of P483,000 (A\$24,000) for the Mt. Pinatubo relief operation. Long-term plans project the need to maintain at least two CDRC evacuation centers, to serve 2,000 families who have lost their homes and source of livelihood. CDRC is in urgent need of extra funds.

**Extracts from CDRC Updates:**

June 18, 1991 -- The specter of famine stalks the people of Zambales, Tarlac and Pampanga as croplands in these areas have been buried by mud, lava and ashfalls from Mt. Pinatubo.

Hundreds of hungry residents in Angeles City looted a row of grocery stores and a piggery as they denounced the absence of government aid and relief workers.

Monitoring teams from the Zambales operation center reported cases of malaria, diarrhea, coughing and throat infection among evacuees, particularly children. No medical provisions, doctors or health workers are available to administer immediate treatment.

June 20, 1991 -- The health situation among Mt. Pinatubo evacuees has reached alarming levels.

The extreme physical and psychological stress suffered by the evacuees is further aggravated by the very poor conditions of severe congestion and inadequate toilet facilities in evacua-

tion centers and the absence of medical services. In Tarlac some evacuation centers are flooded.

June 21, 1991 -- Some residents who fled their homes have already returned and are now clearing the tons of ash that have blanketed their property.

According to the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 354,000 out of the 651,000 workers who lost their sources of income due to the eruption are farmers.

Mt. Pinatubo remains restive. Alert Level 5 is still on in the 20km radius of the volcano. A total of 23,043 evacuees are still housed in 57 evacuation centers in Central Luzon.

<b>LOBBY THE PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT &amp; SENATE</b>	
Fax # (Area Code 6-32)	
President Corazon Aquino, Malacañang Palace, Manila, Philippines.	521-23-01
<b>SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES</b> Manila, Philippines	
Senate President, Hon. JOVITO SALONGA	46-15-04 or 673-70-37
Senate President Pro-Tempore, Hon. SOTERO LAUREL	48-29-38
Senate Majority Floor Leader, Hon. TEOFISTO GUINGONA	49-98-71 or 48-44-25
Senate Minority Floor Leader, Hon. JUAN PONCE ENRILE	46-14-73
Sen. HEHERSON ALVAREZ	59-08-14
Sen. AGAPITO AQUINO	79-15-71
Sen. JOSEPH ESTRADA	818-31-39
Sen. JOSE LINA	48-46-11
Sen. ORLANDO MERCADO	49-30-29
Sen. AQUILINO PIMENTEL, JR.	50-34-19
Sen. ALBERTO ROMULO	632-91-75
Sen. RENE SAGUISAG	833-44-17
Sen. WIGBERTO TAÑADA	50-07-72
Sen. VICTOR ZIGA	721-72-22 or 49-41-17

## MARAG: CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN THE BITTER ARMED CONFLICT

In the course of the Philippine government's counter-insurgency policy, the years between 1988 and 1990 saw some 750,000 Filipinos become "internal refugees" forced by military operations in their areas to evacuate en masse and seek refuge.

In October - November 1990, OPLAN SALIDDUMAY was launched by the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) in Marag Valley, declared as a 'No Man's Land' since 1985.

Reports of this search-and-destroy operation reached the NGOs. A Mercy Mission (fact-finding team of relief and medical services) was formed of 68 participants.

The first Mission failed mainly because of military harassments. A second Mercy Mission with 77 participants (5 from government agencies), persisted. They reached Marag Valley on 11 January 1991.

Their findings confirmed that: 114 houses were bombed or torched, 19 granaries burned, 3,032 sacks of rice destroyed, 3 residents were summarily executed by the military, 74 children died of measles, and 4 people were wounded.

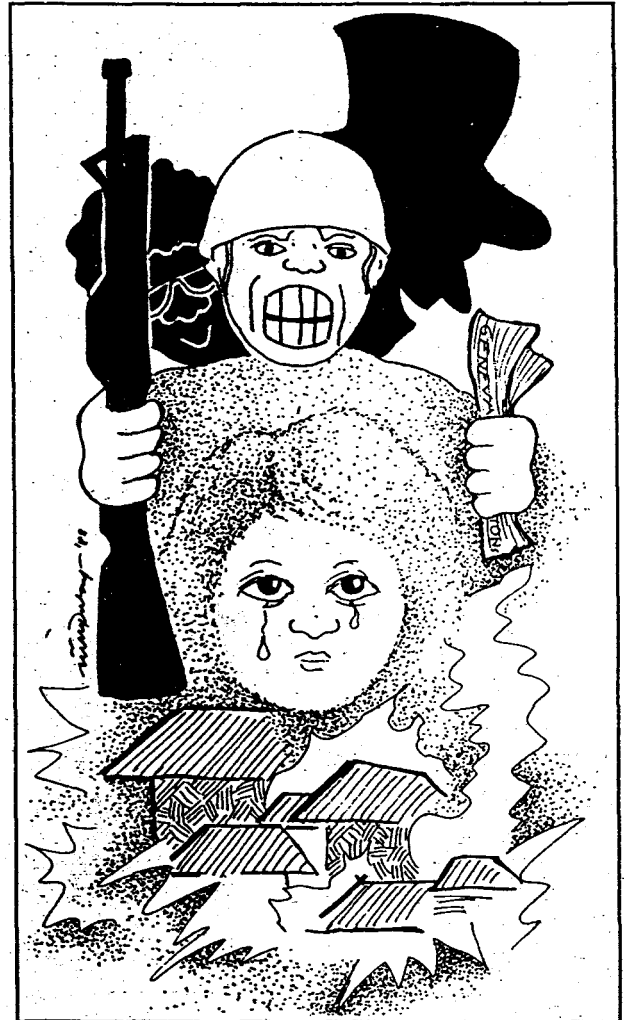
One house was dismantled by the troopers, farm animals were stolen and butchered, utensils, farm implements and crops of coconut, camote, citrus fruits, etc. were destroyed.

The mission participants witnessed the death of 2 children. Trauma and fear were evident in the people. One woman cried convulsively, non-stop.

Over 101 bombs were dropped from October 18 to November 20, 1990. More than 81 rockets were launched and more than 150 howitzer shells were dropped.

The people are living in makeshift houses or under trees; subsisting on edible roots, fruits and leaves; malnourished and highly susceptible to disease and infections. They have no means of livelihood and are in need of food, clothing, farming implements, and materials to rebuild houses.

OPLAN SALIDDUMAY is only one of the many military operations the AFP conducts in the rural areas. The viola-



tions of social, economic, civil and political rights of ordinary civilians continue to wreck havoc on the lives of the Filipino peoples.

The LINGAP PINOY (Philippine Help) CAMPAIGN calls on President Aquino and the national leadership: to abide by its avowed adherence to Protocol II of the Geneva Convention which provides in Article 13, Section 1 that civilians shall be protected "against dangers arising from military operations"; to urgently pursue peace talks so that a political solution, not a military one, can be reached; to address the root causes of the internal armed conflict.

The LINGAP PINOY (Philippine Help) CAMPAIGN also calls on Australians to help the Marag Valley people rebuild their lives. Donations and other assistance may be sent to LINGAP PINOY through the Uniting Church Social Responsibility Desk, 130 Lt. Collins St., Melbourne Vic. 3000 or write to LINGAP PINOY (Philippine Help) CAMPAIGN, 63 Suffolk St., West Footscray Vic 3012.

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# AETA - THE PEOPLE OF MT PINATUBO

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## URGENT APPEAL

The 7,000 tribal Aeta people whose traditional home is the slopes of Mt Pinatubo in the Philippines began evacuating their country in April and May as the first warning signs appeared of the recent dreadful eruptions. These Aeta people are now devastated.

A group of Australians formed in Sydney in mid-June to raise aid for these people whose self-help organisation LAKAS has become well-known to Aboriginal, overseas aid and church groups. In the second half of 1989, a leading Aeta, Paylet Cabaliz and Sister Menggay visited organisations and individuals throughout Australia, especially Aboriginal communities and organisations on Central Australia and the Top End. Their solidarity at the major anti-bases action at the US base at Nurrungar was greatly appreciated.



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### • Aetas now confidently bargain with lowlanders at markets

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The FRIENDS OF THE AETAS are calling on all Australians to stand by these Aeta people of Zambales province in their immediate need and when they strive to return to their homelands, once they are safe.

LAKAS is the acronym for the Negrito Peoples Alliance of Zambales, as well as meaning 'power' in the Aeta language. Since 1981 LAKAS cooperative has organised self-help activities starting in literacy in Aeta language and extending to health, agriculture and other commercial ventures. They aimed to rebuild and dignify Aeta society, so badly damaged under pressure from landgrabbers, loggers and the dominant Tagalog culture.

The Aeta strongly opposed recent geo-thermal drilling on Pinatubo by the Philippines National Oil Corporation, because the drilling was imposed on them and might cause the long-dormant volcano to erupt.

On June 18, Paylet Cabaliz, secretary of LAKAS, and Sister Menggay Balazo sent this plea for help to friends in Australia:

*"Our Aeta brothers and sisters are hard hit by the eruption of Mt Pinatubo. LAKAS leading the evacuation of the people had already evacuated eight times, until now we are still very unstable. We are now residing in the evacuation centre (a school building) in Sta Cruz, the last town in the north of Zambales.*

*"Our 12 Aeta villages at the front of Mt Pinatubo are buried. It is not possible to go back to their villages. We are not allowed to back to these villages, it is unlivable.*

*"LAKAS needs money to buy land for a relocation if possible still in Zambales. LAKAS also needs food, clothing, housing and agricultural tools and animals in the relocation area. LAKAS lost almost everything they possess. Thanks for your help. Please pray for us."*

## THE AETAS ADVANCE TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Many of the 7,000 Aetas till recently resided in 20 barrios or sitios of Poontabo about 85 kilometres north west of Manila. Many of these are located in the land around Mt Pinatubo, the Aetas' sacred mountain.

They have been forced to move up into the mountainous regions by years of land-grabbing. Lowlander Filipinos have taken their traditional planting and hunting grounds away to establish barrios and town or industrial sites.

More than 49,000 hectares of Aeta ancestral land has been taken over for United States military bases in the last 20 years. The traditional owners were evicted without compensation. The Aetas retreated to the recesses of forests and mountain areas where they still face occasional bombing from us war games and the less fertile ground cannot always sustain their traditional slash-and-burn agriculture. Much of the area had been de-forested through logging concessions to timber companies.

Even in recent times, since there has been a government logging ban in the Zambales, lumber companies have continued to operate illegally with little effective government enforcement of the ban. President Aquino visited the area and declared certain areas for the exclusive use of the Aetas but even this has not prevented them being subjected to violent threats from lowlanders wishing to use Aetalands.

The basic Aeta diet consists of sweet potatoes and rice and this makes it difficult for them to meet nutritional needs. The infant mortality rate has been as high as 76% and malaria is also a risk. Water often had to be carted long distances over rugged terrain. When the tribal people took their cash crops such as bananas and tobacco to market they were often cheated by lowlanders not paying a fair price. Most of the people were illiterate and unable to understand basic numeracy.

With the help of some sisters from the Franciscan Missionaries in the Tribal Filipino Apostolate, the Aetas have organised themselves to combat the many problems they face. They have developed an organisation which promotes self-reliance and self-determination. As a result, the military forces have increased their operations in their areas, claiming that communist sympathisers are influencing the Aetas.

The programs undertaken since 1985 include:

- Functional Literacy and Adult Conscientization Education Program to eradicate illiteracy - a Paolo Friere method of education to acquaint the people with their basic rights, duties and dignity as persons, a people and as citizens.
- Leadership Training Program - potential leaders trained for the community.
- Socio-economic projects - a co-operative store has been set up and agriculture and animal raising projects, practical application of the literacy program.
- Health and Nutrition - community-based health-care and health education.
- Social Awareness and Cultural Enhancement Program - focus on people's culture through plays, writing and documentation as well as encouraging people to live by tradition.
- Integrated Spirituality.

Out of the literacy program has grown a confident, well-informed group of leaders and their alliance, LAKAS. Their response to the present crisis of the eruption of Mt Pinatubo is proof of the dynamic organisation that has emerged.

LAKAS went to work as the Aetas' sacred mountain erupted. They organised the evacuation of YamOt and adjacent barangays, but unfortunately not before at least 100 Aetas had contracted malaria and respiratory infections due to exposure to the sulphurous steam emissions. Menggay wrote on May 4 that LAKAS was sheltering and feeding 300 families - over 1,000 people - in the LAKAS evacuation centre, supervising make-shift shelters in the midst of government agencies' intrigues.

Meanwhile some of the tribal people were being sheltered in the government camps. Menggay reported that the Aetas were made to dance and pose for pictures for their benefactors. LAKAS strongly protested against such intrusion into the peoples' privacy.

Menggay ended that letter on a typical Filipino note of combined sadness and hope: "All the Aetas' villages wherein we have had our program - YamOt, Villar and Patola Anon etc - are now empty. You cannot help but cry to see the years' struggle for the program to survive and now it's all turned to emptiness. Really, 'God giveth and God taketh away'."

## RESPOND TO THE APPEAL FROM THE AETAS

GET ACTIVE- JOIN FRIENDS OF THE AETAS AT: Philippines Australia Christian Forum, c/- TUCAR, 1st Floor, 300 Sussex Street Sydney 2000. Make cheques payable to PACF AETA APPEAL. Phone Joy Balazo 02-283 3301, Kevin Tory 02-267 176.



## MT PINATUBO ERUPTION VICTIMS NEED HELP PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT RELIEF WORK PROVES INADEQUATE

(Extract from BAYAN Action Alert - 17th June 1991)

For weeks Mt. Pinatubo, the 562-meter volcano nestled between Pampanga and Zambales provinces emitted sufficient warnings. But the Philippine authorities did not heed its serious forebodings.

President Aquino, busy acting in behalf of the multinational oil cartel, was parrying growing public clamor for an immediate rollback of fuel prices. Her disaster coordinator, Defense Chief Fidel Ramos, was busy elsewhere kissing babies and shaking hands to boost his presidential bid.

Thus, when the volcano started to erupt on June 9, the hundreds of thousands of people living nearby were virtually on their own. They fled in horror and panic mainly on foot, chased by burning giant boulders, suffocating ash and sand, rampaging mudflow, and the deadly pyroclasts. Nowhere were the military trucks which would otherwise swoop into villages within minutes during counter-insurgency operations.

During the height of the volcanic eruptions, television footage taken by intrepid reporters at the scene showed frantic villagers trooping to municipal halls obviously seeking directions from their officials, as the pitch-black noon sky rained ash and sand. But most of the local officials had already fled for their own safety.

At Malacañang Palace, presidential spokespersons were issuing statements that the government is on top of the situation and the President is watchful of the developments.

Within two days, volcanic debris buried entire towns and cities, and destroyed nearly all the houses, farms and crops, public and private buildings and infrastructure within a radius of 40km surrounding the volcano. Also knee-deep in ash and sand are Angeles City and Olongapo - the sites of Clark Air Base and Subic Navel Base, the largest U.S. military bases outside the American continent.

Before Mt Pinatubo vented its full fury, U.S. military authorities ordered its 15,000 personnel and their families

based at Clark to evacuate to Subic. Except for a small contingent including Philippine Air Force guards, Clark was cleared within hours.

Prior to the volcanic eruption, the Americans had vigorously argued in the on-going bases negotiations that they would need about a decade to phase out facilities and move their troops and equipment.

According to The Guardian, a reputable London newspaper, US military authorities had ordered a "nuclear alert" at Clark. It was also reported that Subic authorities sent a convoy of trucks to Clark to move 36 nuclear warheads to safety.



Philippine anti-nuke activists had earlier raised fears that volcanic heat and activity may trigger some nuclear mishap at Clark that could lead to leakage of radioactive materials.

The Americans promptly denied they had ordered a "nuclear alert", persisting in their neither-confirm-nor-deny stance about the presence of nuclear weapons in their bases.

The Philippine Constitution bans the storage of nuclear weapons in the country. But there are documents and reports that the bases do have these weapons. Aquino dismisses these reports as fantasies of the anti-bases lobby. ▶

## PALAWAN HARIBON 16 ARRESTED

Sixteen members of the Haribon Foundation, one of the more popular ecological watchgroups in the Philippines, were arrested on February 15 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan on charges that they are members of the New People's Army.

Northern Dispatch - March 22, 1991

## NPA CEASEFIRE IN AFFECTED AREAS

When Mount Pinatubo erupted, the New People's Army declared a unilateral ceasefire in the affected areas. The National Democratic Front and its member organizations, including the NPA, are participating in the relief and rehabilitation work going on.

NDF International Office - June 20, 1991

« Contd from page 6

Early damage estimates have already reached P5 billion. Casualty reports say 146 people are confirmed dead, with many missing. Hundreds of thousands are rendered homeless. According to agriculturalists, farms within a radius of 10 kilometers will be useless for 5-15 years. Water systems have been totally destroyed.

More than 200,000 people have fled to Metro Manila and are housed in ill-equipped evacuation centers. At the evacuation centers, the relief work and efforts of non-government and civic organizations seemed more effective and systematic than that of the government.

Unprepared to handle the evacuation in Metro Manila, the government decided to send thousands of evacuees home by June 19 despite the fact that volcanic activity had only mildly lulled.

The government has no money or plan for the rehabilitation of the affected area and has indicated it may resort to foreign borrowings. Clamor for the suspension of foreign debt payments has become louder.

BAYAN's Task Force Relief & Rehabilitation is coordinating its members' efforts to send relief and volunteers to the stricken areas and the various evacuation centers in Metro Manila.

## LINO BROCKA KILLED IN ACCIDENT

Lino Brocka died in a car accident on May 22 in Quezon City.

Associates of the world acclaimed movie director say his films were an extension of his political activism, a mass outlet to put forward his social and political messages to the people.

After the Ninoy Aquino assassination in 1983, Lino intensified his involvement in the anti-dictatorship struggle and played a high profile role in the mass movement. He joined JAJA (Justice for Aquino Justice for All), NAJFD (Nationalist Alliance for Justice Freedom and Democracy) and BAYAN where he was elected onto the council of leaders during its founding congress.

Jose Lacaba, the scriptwriter of the banned Ora Pro Nobis (Pray For Us), said had it not been for Lino's death, they would have made a sequel to the film to be entitled Misarere Nobis (Have Mercy On Us).

Philippine News and Features -- May 26, 1991

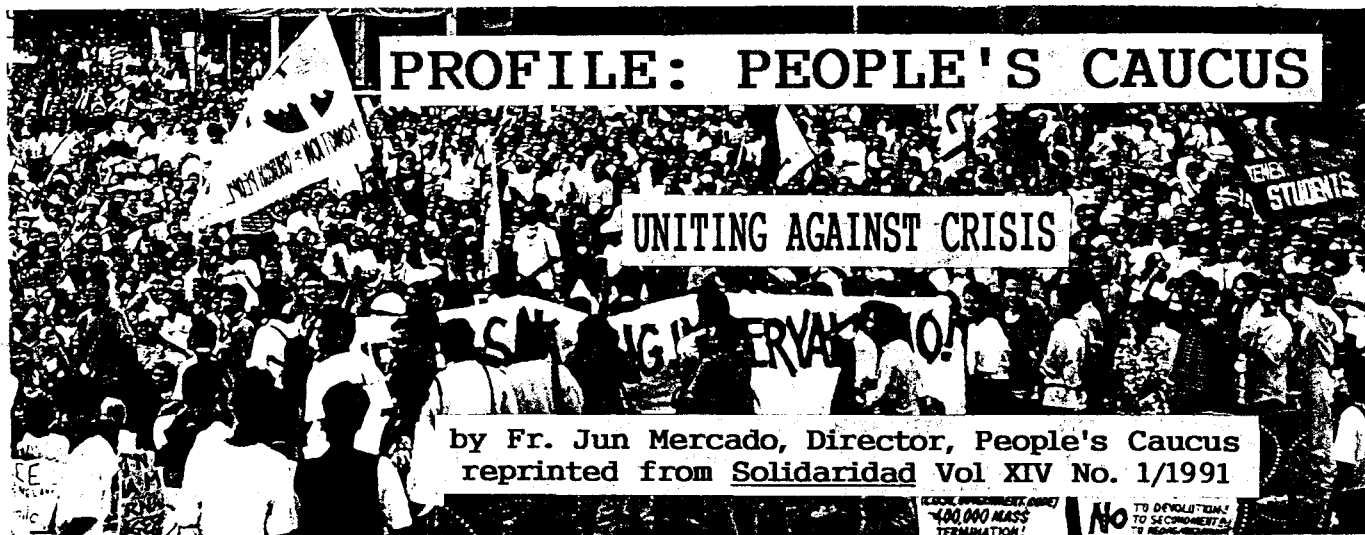


04-17 September 1991  
Manila, Philippines

Contact: Centre for Philippine Concerns Australia, c/- TUCAR, 300 Sussex St. Sydney (02) 283 3301  
All-in costs: Aus\$1,500.00

"After the string of natural calamities since the earthquake last year, and now the eruption of Mt Pinatubo, President Aquino must now realize that there is no honor, but shame, in allowing our people to suffer and die just because of her commitments to the International Monetary Fund and the oil cartel."

Nelia Sancho, BAYAN Chairperson



It was a momentous birth attended by 700 people from over 200 diverse organizations nationwide. On 13-14 October, 1990, the People's Caucus was officially inaugurated at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City. Its Comprehensive People's Agenda was unanimously adopted as an alternative to the present ruling system.

The idea of the People's Caucus sprang from the national crisis which came into sharp focus after the nearly successful December 1989 coup d'etat attempt. The violence and uncertainty brought together groups long divided by historical tensions, differences of approach and individual errors.

The coup d'etat attempt made it clear that it was no longer possible to keep silent as the nation's chances to survive steadily eroded. The right-wing rebellion trained the spotlight on the government's complete disarray in the face of the national crisis.

The realization that they could rely on no one but themselves led groups from right to left of the political spectrum to respond to the crisis.

The People's Caucus was a major initiative of these groups. A broad movement, it brings together people's organizations, issue-based coalitions, sectoral and multi-sectoral alliances, and individuals from the Church, academe, media, business, the professions, local government councils, the bureaucracy and Congress.

Five major concerns have emerged from the discussions and the initial contents of the People's Agenda:

- ▶ Poverty and development
- ▶ Sovereignty and self-determination
- ▶ Human Rights and civil liberties
- ▶ Internal conflict and peace
- ▶ Governance and people's empowerment

Even before the people's caucus was formally launched, it had undertaken two major projects. The first was co-sponsorship of the peasant's forum last May. The body composed of peasants and supporters from all over the country adopted a complete economic package including the People's Agrarian Reform Code, a nationalist industrialization scheme, and recognition of and support for various peasants' initiatives.

Then, in July last year, the People's Caucus co-sponsored, with the University of the Philippines Faculty Regent and School of Labor & Industrial Relations, the Baselands Conversion Conference. Six major resolutions were unanimously adopted to constitute the People's Alternative to Military Bases:

- ▶ Framework for Baseland Conversion,
- ▶ Ecological cleanup of the bases,
- ▶ Framework of a new US-Philippines Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation,
- ▶ People's national defense alternatives,
- ▶ Defense and protection of people's organizations campaigning for a nuclear-free and bases-free Philippines
- ▶ Alternative foreign debt policy.

Shortly after the formal launching of the People's Caucus, problems came up due to differences of opinion on the general strike in October and November. Still, the forming of the People's Caucus marks the beginning of a new era in the people's movement where those of differing ideologies and stances agree on a common comprehensive agenda.



## DON'T JUST CURSE ANYMORE

In Cagayan Valley and elsewhere

Summary executions of suspected  
dissidents,  
Kidnappings in crowded plazas and  
markets,  
These are all so common these days.  
The military wears no gloves in  
operations  
And even returns to scenes of crimes  
again  
And yet again.

But we don't just curse anymore.

Severed heads, splattered brains,  
Widows and orphans,  
They cry to heaven for vengeance,  
Unmetaphored like fact-sheets piling up  
On desks of Bishops,  
In offices of human rights  
organizations.

We don't just curse anymore.  
There is much work to be done.  
There is much life to be lived.

Like there are new power structures to  
build,  
Lands to recover and till,  
New humanness of community and ritual  
to invent.

Like more than a hundred cadres of the  
people  
Aren't enough,  
And a mass base of millions in towns  
and barrios  
Isn't enough,  
And protest marches to the Palace  
gates.  
We must bring up the rear and the  
middle forces  
And more.

We unfold fairy tales to children  
still,  
Listen to the songs of Neruda and  
Sandoval,  
Make love before sunrise, yes,

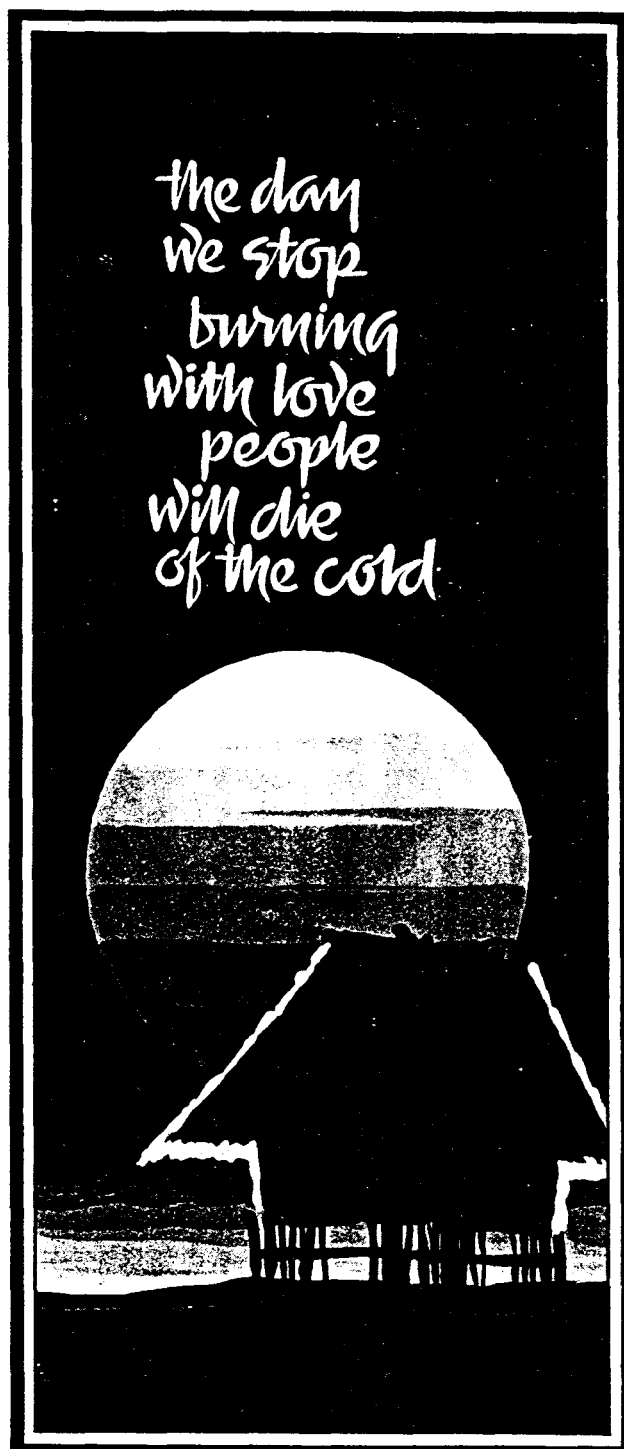
And roll the final boulder up the  
mountain  
Together to a right time, a right place  
(But near heaven)  
Before the letting go  
And much, much more.

JASON MONTANA

## IN THE DARK DEPTHS

The enemy wants to bury us  
In the dark depths of prison  
But shining gold is mined  
From the dark depths of the earth  
And the shining pearl is dived  
From the dark depths of the sea.  
We suffer but we endure  
And draw up gold and pearl  
From depths of character  
Formed for so long in struggle.

JOSE MARIA SISON  
10 April 1978



*the day  
we stop  
burning  
with love  
people  
will die  
of the cold*

## JOIN PASG QUEENSLAND OR SUBSCRIBE TO ITS NEWSLETTER

The Philippines Australia Solidarity Group (PASG) Queensland is a broadly-based solidarity group welcoming membership of individuals who support the struggle of the Filipino peoples for independence, freedom and democracy. It brings together people of diverse backgrounds and includes Filipinos and non-Filipinos. PASG QLD has close links with Filipino community organisations in Australia, the Philippines, and the Asia-Pacific region. It receives information on Philippine trade unions, the role of the churches (Christian and Non-Christian), women's groups, peasant organisations, rural conditions, teachers, environmental concerns, and the indigenous peoples in the Philippines. PASG in Queensland can provide resource material, slides and videos as well as speakers.

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.

We have reduced the Newsletter subscription rate to \$10.00 because Philippine Issues from the Philippine Resource Centre in Melbourne has ceased publication. We will try to make up for this loss of news coverage by including additional material and expanding the size of the Newsletter from time to time.

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

I would like to:     have more information about PASG.     make a donation of \$..... for solidarity work.  
 join PASG (membership includes a one year subscription to the PASG Newsletter). I enclose payment of \$20.  
 receive a one year subscription to the PASG Newsletter. I enclose payment of \$10.

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....  
.....  
TEL. NO. .... (H) ..... (W)

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PASG Q'ld.  
P.O. Box 174  
St. Lucia 4067  
Queensland

POSTAGE PAID ST LUCIA QLD. AUST. 4067
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CUT HERE

## A DECLARATION FOR THE PEACE THAT WE ASPIRE AND STRUGGLE FOR

It was for peace, U.S. President George Bush said, when he unleashed the world's deadliest weaponry against Iraq. It is for peace, the U. S. argues, that it has to maintain its major military bases in strategic parts of the world, even if the Cold War has ended. It is for peace, U.S.-client regimes insist, that they should annihilate patriotic and popular resistance movements by denying their citizens of their basic rights and bombing their own countrysides.

A perfect example is the Philippines where the US is bent on maintaining its military bases, the largest outside the North American continent, by resorting to all sorts of economic and political pressures, as well as deceit, against the Filipino people. The Philippines has also become a US laboratory for its low intensity conflict counter-insurgency program, after debacles in Vietnam and Nicaragua, resulting to tremendous loss of life and destruction in the Philippine countrysides.

The U. S. has spoken of a New World Order when it gained virtual control of the world's oil resources using the Iraq-Kuwait conflict as a perfect smokescreen. Its ally, Japan, now also talks of a New Pacific Order as it heightens its economic expansionism while rebuilding its military might. For these countries, World Peace is having the cake only for themselves.

But the peace that we aspire and struggle for is not the peace spoken by those who ravage whole countries to promote their economic interests, impose a "new world order" where they are supreme, and maintain "peace" where no one can disturb their debauchery and plunder of the world's resources.

The peace that we mean is not that mouthed by puppet regimes which are just too willing to slaughter their own people, prostitute their women, barter their people's dignity for economic and military aid to prop up their bankrupt governments.

No. It is not the imperialist powers nor the ruling elites that will define the peace that we see. For genuine peace is that which is defined by the people who have struggled for it through the long years of colonial rules, the years of puppet regimes and dictatorships.

Peace can only be defined in the people's terms -- which is peace with justice for the large majority; peace with dignity and freedom of a people who enjoy their basic human rights to life, liberty and prosperity.

CUT HERE

We do not ask for peace from the oppressive powers. We shall build, and we are already building, this peace on our terms, out of our long struggle, in structures that will restore our humanity and will ensure a future of genuine sovereignty of nations, freedom from oppression, and dignity for all and the generations to come.

**NO TO THE INTERVENTION OF THE U.S. AND OTHER EXPANSIONIST COUNTRIES!**

**DISMANTLE ALL FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER COUNTRIES!**

**STRUGGLE FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, GENUINE WORLD PEACE AND DEMOCRACY!**

In Solidarity,

Signature	Printed Name	Organization/Address
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Please address your mails to:

**BAGONG ALYANSANG MAKABAYAN (BAYAN)**  
International Relations Department  
P. O. Box 10296 Broadway Centrum  
Quezon City, 1112 PHILIPPINES  
(Telefax # (632) 721-8883 or (632) 999-437

**PLEASE RETURN BEFORE SEPTEMBER 16, 1991**