



KASAMA

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Queensland

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Filipino Migrant Workers

**3.5 million support
20 million family members**

THE United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families defines the term 'migrant worker' as a person engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which she or he is not a national. This definition includes contract workers who are employed in a foreign country for a specified period of time.

The number of Filipino migrant workers today stands at 3.5 million and it is estimated that they support 20 million family members. Filipinos can be found working in 135 countries all over the world - as domestic helpers in Hong Kong, Canada and Europe, - construction workers in the Middle East, - factory workers in Korea, - fishermen in Malaysia, - entertainers in Japan... the list goes on.

The massive exodus of Filipino workers began under the Marcos regime and has continued even more vigorously in recent years. Overseas employment of Filipinos has been one of the major programs of government over the past two decades. Institutionalised by the authoritarian Marcos government, the labor-export policy continues to be a major component of the economic strategy of succeeding administrations including the current government of Fidel Ramos.

The most important factor that has pushed thousands of Filipinos to work overseas is poverty. Officially, unemployment in the Philippines is 8.6 percent of the labour force, or 2 million people. This condition has remained virtually constant since the 1970s. Underemployment, on the other hand, stands at 32.4%. Added to this 2 million are the 750,000 Filipinos who join the labour force each year.

The importance of Filipino migrant workers lies not only in their numbers but also in the amount of foreign exchange they bring into their home economy. From 1982 to 1992, the



Graphic: APMMF NEWS DIGEST April-June 1992

Philippines Central Bank pegged the remittances - that is, the money sent home by workers - at almost 10 billion US dollars. This amount has been identified as the main source of the increase in the country's Gross National Product for 1990.

It is not surprising therefore, that the Philippines' top export commodity has now become its people. And, while migrant workers have greatly benefited the national economy, many of them have paid a very high price for it.

Beneath the statistics, harrowing tales of exploitation and abuse abound. Migrant workers, especially women who now comprise more than 50%, are largely unprotected from economic exploitation and various forms of human rights violations. Migrant workers work long hours in difficult conditions for wages that are usually way below national standards.

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FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS

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In most cases, they are not allowed to unionise and they have no recourse to complain about the abuses committed against them. Governments and businesses, notably in Asia, are establishing or redefining policies to ensure there are supplies of cheap, unprotected labour available when and where needed, which can be disposed of when no longer useful.

Discrimination and racism, lack or absence of services and powerlessness in crisis situations, are other experiences of migrant workers. Migrant women are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. The pattern of Filipino female migration has created a situation where an alarming level of violence against Filipino women has been committed by employers or partners/spouses with an horrific number resulting in deaths.

Deaths of Filipino women migrant workers under suspicious circumstances have been reported in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Middle East, Australia, and Singapore. Welfare centres are inundated by women who have been physically and sexually abused. Rape is a constant danger facing women migrant workers.

The trafficking of Filipino women through migration is also increasing. The most widespread is through what is euphemistically called "entertainment industry", and the main destination for the so-called "entertainers" is Japan, where thousands of women are recruited annually.

There are many more human rights violations that can be cited to illustrate the frightful conditions facing not only Filipinos, but all migrant workers. The World Council of Churches estimates that there are now 70 million migrant workers around the world, and more than half of these are in 'irregular' or undocumented situations.

Migrant workers are human beings; they are entitled to all the rights and privileges of a decent human life. The U.N. has recognised this through the approval of an international convention for the protection of the rights of all migrants and their families. This Convention still has to be ratified by many countries as one step towards creating a safer environment for migrant workers all over the world.

by Chat Garcia

PROTEST GREETS MALAY KING

PROTEST marked the arrival (on April 14) in Manila of the king and queen of Malaysia, indicating that the controversy spawned by the recent roundup of 1,200 Filipino domestics in Kuala Lumpur is far from over.

The king trooped the line with Lt. Gen. Arturo Enrile, newly installed chief of staff of the Armed Forces, during arrival ceremonies. The party then motored to the Manila Hotel past Rizal Park across from where around 50 women from Gabriela, Batis Center for Women, and Kanlungan Center Foundation were assembled.

Police tore up posters and confiscated streamers in an attempt to break up the rally. The women then linked arms and condemned the police action as a violation of their right of expression. When the king appeared later for the wreath-laying, police kept the protesters at Bonifacio Drive, around 100 meters away, with a Navy bus and two trucks blocking them from his view.

The women staged the demonstration to demand that the Malaysian government issue "public and individual apologies" to the Filipino domestics who were rounded up last March 27 at a KL churchyard.

They also called for the unconditional release of the 18 domestics still detained in KL and urged the Malaysian government to sign the United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

- From *Philippine Daily Inquirer* 15 April 1994.



KAIBIGAN, Philippines

MIGRANT WOMEN IN EUROPE

BABAYLAN, the Filipino Migrant Women's Alliance in Europe, together with other migrant women, has a year-long campaign running from November 25, 1993-94. In September this year they are holding a conference in Zurich entitled "Stopping Violence Against Migrant Women". /C. Garcia/CPCA Manila.

Graphic: *Philippine Human Rights Update*
Vol.6 No.7 March/April 1991



MANILA - 29 April 1994: *Kanlungan Center for Migrant Workers Inc. and Oyie de Dios in her capacity as a Commissioner of the Philippine government's National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, initiated a consultation about the death in India of Maria Victoria Suller, upon the request of her family. Vicky Suller allegedly committed suicide but her body bore the marks of torture and rape. Organizations concerned with migration issues attended and a Task Force was set up. The following is their statement in full.*

/C. Garcia/CPCA Manila.

JUSTICE FOR SULLER

JUSTICE FOR ALL FILIPINO MIGRANTS WHO DIED UNDER MYSTERIOUS AND VIOLENT CIRCUMSTANCES

WE, as non-government organizations and individual advocates band together and commit ourselves as the Task Force: Justice For Suller, Justice For All Filipino Migrants Who Died Under Mysterious And Violent Circumstances.

We stand together as we grieve and are outraged by the untimely and grotesque death of Maria Victoria Suller. We are disturbed by the mysterious and questionable circumstances surrounding the death of Maria Victoria, and other Filipina migrant workers, particularly our women migrant workers.

The death of Ma. Victoria is only one in more than a thousand deaths of Filipino migrants that occur every year. This number could even be more, taking into account the unreported, the undiscovered, and the undocumented. These number are not mere statistics. These are lives. These are lives held sacred in any religion or constitution. These are Filipino migrant workers sent as scholars or toilers to bail their families out of poverty. But the sanctity of their lives and worth of their labor have been snuffed, while our [Philippines] government responds with occasional whimpers.

It is well known that most of our migrant workers, particularly our women, face great risks across the borders.

Alive, they are maltreated. Verbally, physically and sexually abused. Discriminated. Raped. Murdered. But even in death, our migrant workers and their families continue to be treated prejudicially. They meet accidents; they become victims of war and its aftermaths; they commit suicide because of despair, threats to lose their jobs and chastity, of alienation, low esteem and loneliness. What is worse is most of these deaths are violent and results of crimes.

We give you a litany of names of our dead migrant workers - all women. We give you the cry for justice from the families who have lost their mothers, daughters and sisters. We give you the murder cases whose perpetrators' identities simply have vanished with the sealed lips of the dead victims, the ignorance of their families, and the indifference of governments:

Maria Victoria Suller died on November 19, 1993 from alleged "suicide" by jumping from the 12th floor of a building without suffering a major bone fracture. She was a Philippine government scholar in India.

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JUSTICE FOR SULLER

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Maricris Sioson died in Japan on September 19, 1991, allegedly of Hepatitis. Her body bore head injuries and stab wounds, one in the genital area indicating that a blade had been inserted vertically.

Vilma Sadaran died in November 1991. Alleged verdict was "suicide" by hanging, but with severe lacerations in her private parts, bruises and fracture in her skull. She was a domestic worker in Bahrain.

Margie Melitante died on 17 April 1992 allegedly of "cardio-vascular arrest", although her body bore stab wounds in the stomach, broken left arm, contusions on the knees, feet, and head. She was a domestic worker in Riyadh, KSA.



Graphic: APMMF NEWS DIGEST April-June 1992

Glenda Llamado died on June 21, 1992. "Suicide" by allegedly jumping from the 6th floor of a building. She was a domestic helper in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Rebecca Dimaculangan. Reported missing and found dead on June 1992. Hogtied with stab wounds. She was another domestic helper in the UAE.

Maricel Lorica died November 1993. Allegedly by "suicide", her body bearing marks of torture. She was a domestic helper in Hong Kong.

Melita Garcia died on August 1993 allegedly by "falling off from the 5th floor of the residence of the Omani Ambassador". Her body, however, bore tortures such as being shaven, and injuries on the head and cigarette butt marks. She was the domestic helper of the Omani Ambassador stationed in Moscow.

Cristina Pacis was murdered last March 1994 while she was doing domestic work in Singapore.

Delia Chavez died on November 1993 allegedly by falling off the 7th floor of a building in Egypt while attempting to escape from her Egyptian employer.

Gloria Barlaan died in November 1993. The verdict was "suicide" by jumping from the 19th floor of a Hong Kong building. Her employer's girlfriend accused her of stealing.

Ma. Cecilia Geli-Agan died on June 13, 1991 allegedly by "subarachnoid haemorrhage". She was an entertainer and battered wife of a Japanese national.

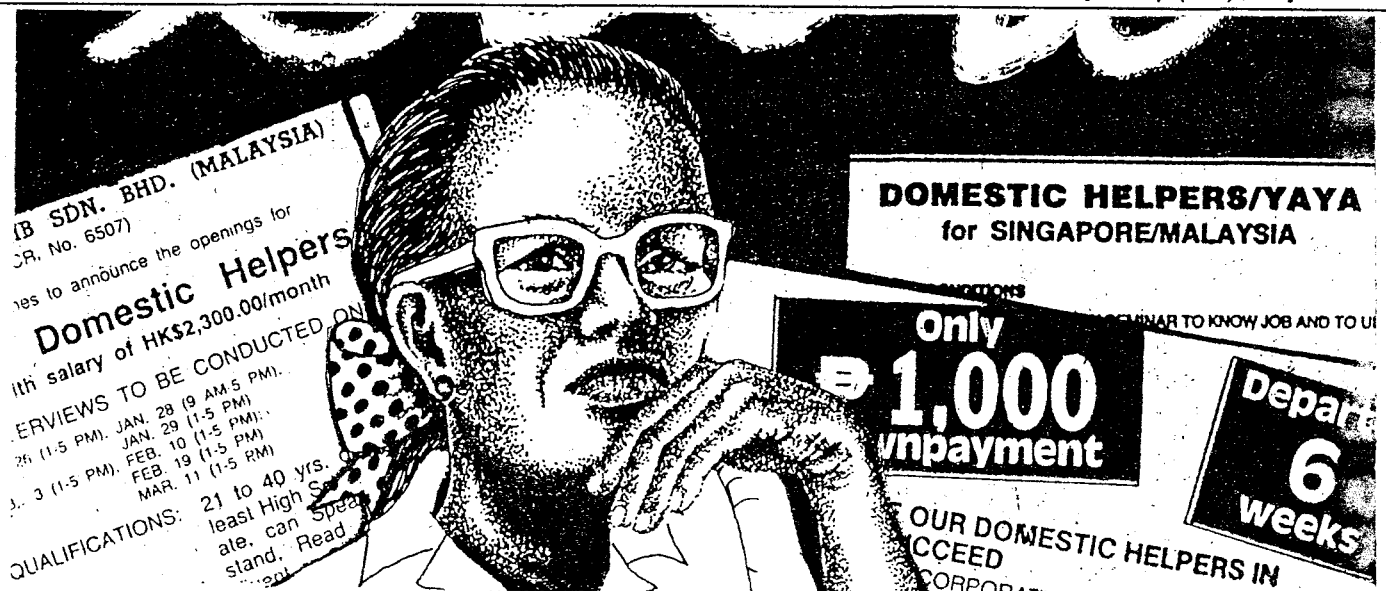
These are only a few of the almost 50 cases we have started documenting. There are more to unearth, with more support from you - the media, concerned public and non-government organizations, students, religious and civic groups, human rights advocates, families of migrants, and the rest of the civil society.

Death, by natural or unnatural causes, or from whatever cause, should be investigated and recorded. This much, our [Philippine] government owes its citizens and dollar earners and their families. This much, any civil host country owes its foreign or guest workers. But, as it seems, justice, protection and welfare for Filipino migrant workers are only secondary in the agenda of international labor and diplomatic relations.

Because of inaction and absence of sustained interest and investigation on death cases, this country [the Philippines] has placed foremost in its agenda for development remittances to pay foreign debt. This [Ramos] government has placed foremost in its diplomatic agenda anything that should not ruffle trade, economic, and geo-political negotiations with labor-receiving countries.

The exodus of Filipinos, particularly our women, to work overseas is a reality of a crisis in development brought by unsound, colonial and corruptive economic, labor and diplomatic policies, and not by "natural migration" phenomenon.

Contd. Page 5 ▶



WE PROTEST - WE DEMAND JUSTICE

We protest the inability of our government to stand sovereign against host nations and demand immediate and sustained investigation and sanctions against the criminals of our women migrant workers!

We protest sacrificing the rights of our workers and their families and trading these for diplomacy!

We protest the blatant denial of public apology and concomitant action from concerned countries and the consequent escape from justice of the perpetrators of these crimes, as well as the public and private agencies responsible for sending these workers to their slaughterhouses!

We protest the silence of the Church and other religious against these inhumanities!

Gestures and concern cannot assuage the pains in the hearts and minds of the families of the victims. Reimbursements of salaries of the dead and other material remunerations cannot value the cost of Filipino lives and the rights of the Filipino family. Prayers, without policy, regret without unified action against the criminals and abusers, cannot return our faith and the faith of concerned families in government. A mendicant diplomacy cannot repair the abject image and dignity of the Philippines, as a country and people.

WE URGE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO:

* Immediately send a fact-finding team composed of representatives from government, NGOs, families of the victims, and human rights groups to investigate the Suller case.

* For the Department of Foreign Affairs to make representations to the Indian government to facilitate such re-investigation.

* Investigate other cases of "suicides" and violent deaths of Filipino migrants through a high-level tripartite team composed of government, NGOs, and families of victims.

* Indemnify the victims and their families and implement sustained social security and protection agreements and other mechanisms in both sending and receiving countries.

* In cases of foul play or suspicious deaths and inhuman treatment of Filipino migrants, the government should take strong and immediate actions in behalf of Philippine nationals.

* Create preferential training and employment for women to provide better employment options.

**TASK FORCE: JUSTICE FOR SULLER, JUSTICE FOR ALL
FILIPINO MIGRANTS WHO DIED UNDER MYSTERIOUS
AND VIOLENT CIRCUMSTANCES**

29 April 1994
Manila, Philippines

Alliance of Migrant Concerns in the
Asia-Pacific and Middle East Region (MIGRANTE-APME)
Batis Center for Women
Center for Overseas Workers (COW) - CBCP
Centre for Philippine Concerns - Australia (CPCA)
Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) - Asia-Pacific
Congress of Labor and Multisectoral Organizations (CLAMOR)
Crusade Against Violence
Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines (DSWP)
Friends of Filipino Migrant Workers (KAIBIGAN)
Karlungan Center for Migrant Workers Inc.
Kapisanan ng mga Kamaganak ng Manggagawang
Migranteng Pilipino, Inc. (KAKAMMPI)
Kilusan ng Migranteng Manggagawa't Pamilya sa Pilipinas (KMMPP)
Religious of the Good Shepherd - Lay Affiliates
Sentro ng Kababaihang Manggagawa (SENTRO)
Stop Trafficking Of Pilipinos (STOP)
Women In Development - Women Overseas Workers Program (WIDWOW)
Women's Legal Bureau (WLB)
Women Overseas Workers NGO Network
Ugnayan ng Kababaihan sa Politika (UKP)

CONTACTS: KANLUNGAN Tel. 921 7849 - BATIS Tel. 522 4357 -
COW Tel. 922 8244 - CATW Tel. 722 0755.



Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Writing & Publishing

Filipino Writers to attend 6th International Feminist Book Fair in Melbourne

OVER 200 writers have so far accepted invitations to participate in the 6th International Feminist Book Fair to be held at the Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne from 27-31 July.

The Trade Fair will be open to the public from July 29 throughout the Literary Festival until the 31st. During these three days, over 40 sessions, discussion groups, workshops, and readings will take place.

At presstime the Filipino writers who have confirmed their participation are: Merlinda Bobis, Victoria Tauli-Corpus, Ninotchka Rosca, Fe Remontigue, Lina Sagara Reyes, Aida Santos, Lilia Santiago and Richie Valencia Buenaventura.

Here is just a tiny sample of the session themes: 'Speaking for ourselves: sovereignty vs nationalism', 'Ageing positively', 'Beyond the humourless feminist: politics of feminist cartoons', 'On common ground: ecology, feminism and Indigenous politics', 'Signing off: journalism as a dangerous occupation', 'Convents: a hot-bed of feminism', 'Connecting cultures: writing on migration and place', 'Life on the rim of the world: Pacific women's issues'.

As well as the Book Fair there will be a Fringe Festival of performance art and music events each evening. Also, two conferences have been scheduled to take advantage of the presence of so many women activists: A South Asian Women's Conference entitled *Women, Power and Cultural Difference in South Asia: Negotiating Gender* will be held at the Exhibition Buildings on 27/28 July, and on 1 August there is the *International Feminisms Conference*, Deakin University which will be held at the Windsor Hotel.

Entry to the Trade Fair is \$5 which includes an exhibition of books from around the world, continuous readings, storytelling and spontaneous presentations. Entry to the Literary Festival will cost an additional \$12 per session/\$8 concession. However, 4 free discussion sessions are scheduled each day.

Copies of the 6th IFBF Programme are available at Bookworld stores or write to: 6th IFBF, GPO Box 2681X, Melbourne 3000.

STOP PRESS

BRISBANE (July 4) - The public gallery of Beenleigh Magistrates Court was overflowing with observers of the committal proceedings in the case of Paul Young, a Senior Constable in the Qld. police service. Accused of killing his wife, Elma Rebecca Albarracin Young on February 20, Paul Young's legal representative was not yet ready to enter a plea on his behalf. The case was set for trial at Brisbane's Supreme Court. Contact: Emere/Dee CPCA 07 891 5877, or Pinky/Aurea MWESS 07 846 3490, or Ana BMRC 07 844 8144.

THOUSANDS MARCH ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

GABRIELA marked IWD with a camp-out and rally near Malacañang by over 4,000 who reiterated opposition to the government's Philippines 2000 program

In Baguio City, about 2,000 women belonging to government, non-governmental, and cultural groups took to the streets to celebrate the day. The rallyists cited the "increasing harassment of Cordillera women in work and home."

Peasant slum women found common cause with commercial sex workers and professionals at the IWD march and cultural program in Davao City. Denouncing the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan of the Ramos administration, the 5,000 women marchers said that Philippines 2000 is a bane for women. (With reports from Frank Cimatu, PDI N. Luzon Bureau, Mindanao Media News Service)

GARUDA INDONESIA LEADS THE WAY!

END Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT) congratulates the Melbourne Office of Garuda Indonesia for agreeing to join in the fight against child sex tourism and distribute ECPAT materials. Garuda is the first airline to agree to distribute educational materials to travellers.

ECPAT-Australia have campaign T shirts for sale at \$20. Phone: 03 650 3295 or Fax: 03 650 8383 or Write: ECPAT, P.O. Box 2593W, Melbourne 3001.

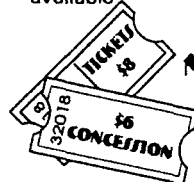
KABABAYAN! YOU ARE INVITED TO PREMIER NIGHT

"VOICELESS: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND FILIPINO WOMEN"

Movies/documentaries
to be screened starting
7:00pm until 10:00pm

- (1) "Driving Ms Crazy"
 - (2) "Voiceless
- domestic violence
and Filipino women"
 - (3) "Many A Good Tune
- Women and Ageing"
 - (4) "Fresh Hand, New Deal"
 - (5) "Pink Gladioli"
- and more !!!!

Light refreshments
available



Guest
Speaker:
Cheryl Kernot,
Australian
Democrats

**7:00P.M.
JULY 19**

**MOVEMENTS STUDIO
METRO ART BUILDING**

99 Edward St., Brisbane

This is a Ribcage Women's Multimedia Association preview night, supported by the Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia, Brisbane Branch.
For more information contact:
Ribcage 07 220 0444

GABRIELA

A national women's coalition of organizations

**6TH WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AFFAIR IN
THE PHILIPPINES (WISAP '94) 20-28 OCTOBER, 1994**

Organizing and Empowering Southern Women for Change

Dear Sisters, GABRIELA wishes to announce the 6th Women's International Solidarity Affair in the Philippines, WISAP '94, will be held on 20-28 October this year.

We are pleased to invite you to this gathering of women from various parts of the globe organized to enhance solidarity linkages among women's groups by facilitating a rich exchange of ideas, experiences and strategies on various issues concerning women, whether on a local, regional or global scale.

The theme for this year's WISAP centers on *Organizing and Empowering Southern Women for Change*. The main participants will be women from underdeveloped countries and from marginalized groups in the First World. There will be pre-conference exposure visits to GABRIELA member-organizations in the different Philippine regions for sharings of strategies in women's movement-building. The conference proper will feature plenary and workshop discussions on issues of Southern women and the strategies currently being utilized by them. A culminating activity will be the drawing up of action plans and resolutions on issues of common concern, particularly in the context of current global developments and well into the twenty-first century.

We urge women to send us a brief situationer on the issues and problems they are confronting in their own countries in the context of the existing political, economic, and socio-cultural conditions at their local or regional levels.

Just as in the five past WISAPs, this year's gathering will largely depend on the conference registration fees of participants, who will have to take care of their own travel fares and other conference expenses. For this year, the conference fee is set at US\$400 which covers food and accommodations for the nine-day duration and conference kit. This does not include airfare or other costs for the pre-conference exposure visits.

Thank you very much. We are looking forward to a rich exchange of ideas with you.

In sisterhood,

Liza L. Maza, Secretary-General, GABRIELA and
Sharon Cabusao, Co-ordinator, GABRIELA Commission on
International Relations and Organizing Committee, WISAP '94.

GABRIELA, P.O. BOX 4386, MANILA 2800, PHILIPPINES

WISAP '94

If you would like to attend WISAP '94 or want more information, there are WISAP '91 attendees from Australia living in Qld, NSW and Vic. who would be only too happy to tell you about their experience of WISAP. CPCA or PASG in your state can also assist you with background material.

The CPCA library in Brisbane contains general information about GABRIELA, the specific campaigns of GABRIELA Commissions, full conference documents of WISAP '91, as well as material from the broad spectrum of Filipino women's issues. Previous issues of KASAMA have featured articles and reports on the work of GABRIELA in Vol/Nos. 8/1, 6/5&6, 6/4, 6/1, 5/5, 5/2, & 5/1. Contact us for copies.

Phone: 07 891 5877 or Fax: 07 891 6944 or
Write: Qld. P.A.S.G., PO Box 174, St. Lucia 4067.
C.P.C.A., Brisbane Office, 84 Park Rd, Woolloongabba 4102.



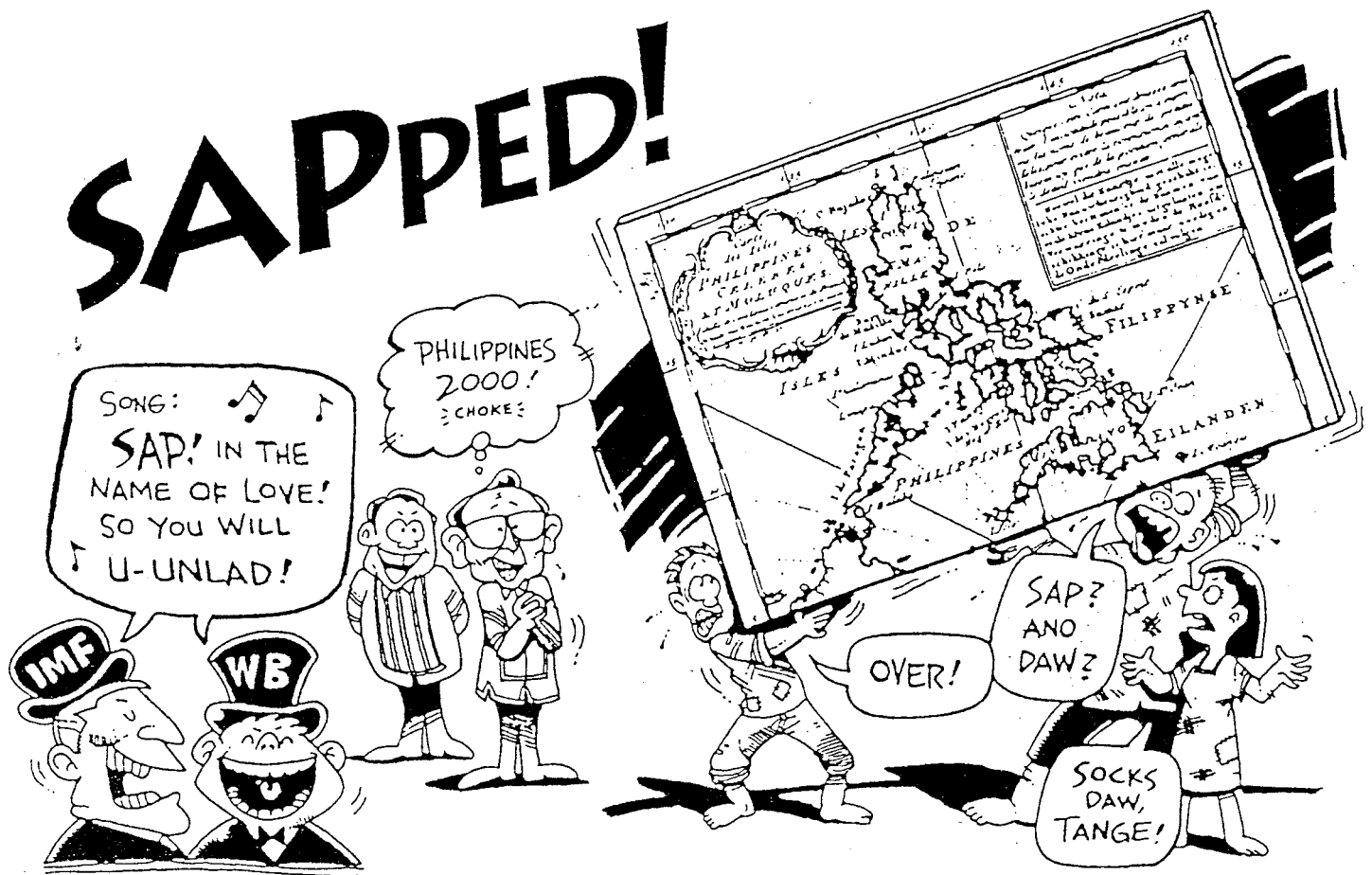
"We hope that in the process of discussions we find our commonalities and differences and out of these weave our visions of society as we celebrate women's initiatives and creativity in all arenas of life."

WISAP '91 conference booklet.

Themes of the five previous WISAPs:

- 1986 - Sisterhood and International Solidarity for Militant Struggle
- 1987 - United with the Filipino Women for Peace, Liberation and National Determination
- 1988 - Women for Peace Based on Justice, for Disarmament and Self Determination
- 1989 - Towards Greater Concern and Commitment for the Protection of Women's Human Rights
- 1991 - The Culture of Foreign Domination: Women's Issues, Alternatives and Initiatives

EXTRACTS FROM FDC's PRIMER ON STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT



INTRODUCTION

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS PRIMER

What is structural adjustment? How is it related to debt and development? Why should we bother ourselves with these things? These tough questions discourage most of us from 'meddling' with the issue, which is a disaster, since structural adjustment involves all of us and must be understood by everyone. With a little perseverance, however, we believe ordinary citizens like us can dismantle the mechanics of structural adjustment in a clear, painless way.

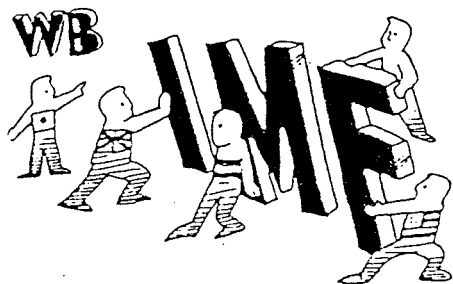
Thus we proceed methodically. We first study the meaning and origin of structural adjustment. Then, we relate this to the national context and point out its key components. Next, we discuss the effects of structural adjustment and its implications on development. Finally, we shall try to propose an alternative to structural adjustment, based on what we have learned.

And so, on with the primer.



WHERE DID STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT COME FROM? (A HISTORY)

IT BEGAN WITH TWO INSTITUTIONS called the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, more unpopularity known as the IMF and WB. These two financial institutions popularized several policies that have come to be known as the orthodox approach to structural adjustment.



1944. Officials from the US, Britain, France and other European nations meet and form the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The IMF is conceived to foster international trade by giving loans to countries with BOP deficits.

The World Bank (formerly named International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) is formed to give loans to war-torn countries of Europe. Obviously there's no better customer than a country recovering from war.

Most of the WB's loans go to the construction of roads, power stations, railroads, ports and other infrastructure.



1950s. WB gains enough clout to aggressively promote its economic blueprint for the world.

1970s. The oil crisis causes more deficit in poor countries. IMF influence grows as it lends more money to countries with BOP deficits.

Labor costs rise in wealthy industrialized countries. To solve this wealthy nations transfer labor-intensive industries to the Third World. In perfect timing, the IMF-WB tandem promote labor-intensive, export-oriented industries among poor countries.



1980s. The two banks stop lending on a project basis. Instead IMF-WB loaned are granted in the form of packages tied to structural adjustment programs.

Though separate, the IMF-WB have a joint development committee which evaluates loaned applications from the Third World. IMF programs are usually short-termed, paving the way for longer term WB programs.

Let's now talk about the history of structural adjustment in the Philippines. >>

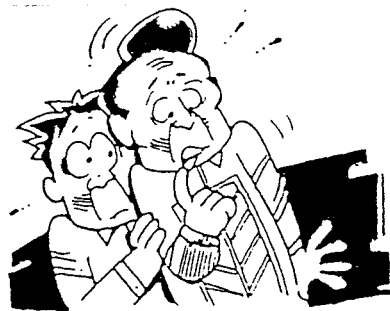
Brief History of SAPs in the Philippines



Early loans ('60s): Philippines avails of IMF stabilization loans.

1972 (Martial Law): Marcos creates the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) with Gerardo Sicat as director-general. Sicat is given power to "reorient and overhaul the economy towards a labor-intensive, export-oriented vision of industrial development."

Empowered by his presidential decrees, Marcos takes over big industries owned by the

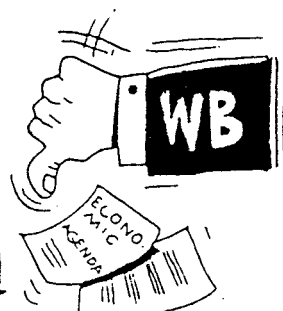


ruling elite who oppose him. This gives him the opportunity to control the economy and change it however which way he wanted.

1976 World Bank comes out with studies concluding that Marcos and Sicat's efforts failed to boost the economy.

1978 Development Bank (ADB) comes out with another study echoing WB's conclusions. The BOP deficit is \$54 million.

Both institutions point out that some government policies



had clashed with adjustment measures.

1979 BOP deficit reaches \$570 million. Economic growth 5.9 percent. The original target was 7.5 percent.

Taking its cue, the WB comes up with a proposal for structural adjustment. The special attraction is a structural adjustment loan (SAL) amounting to \$200 million, a large sum at that time.

1980 Short of funds, Marcos and his advisers grab WB's offer. This is SAL I. The WB



formalizes its structural adjustment programs worldwide.

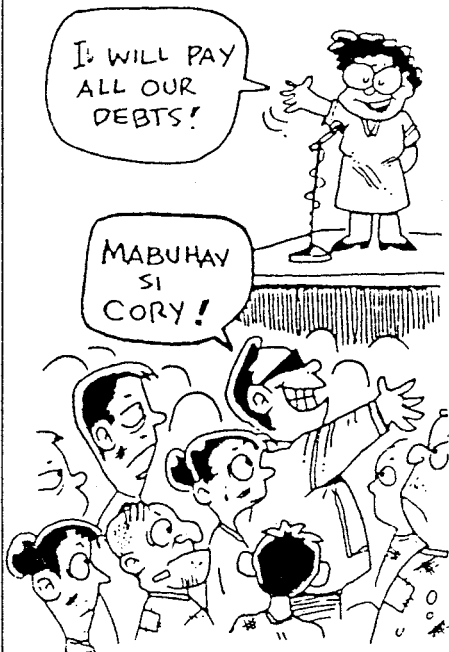
1980-83 The first SAP in the Philippines is implemented as a condition for the release of the \$200 million SAL.

1983 Aquino assassination: The worsening debt and economic crisis force government to borrow anew. SAL II, worth \$300 million, allows Marcos to buy more time. As a condition for SAL II, the second SAP is launched.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

SAPPED! From page 9

1986. Hopes are high after Pres. Corazon Aquino takes power. Marcos and cronies leave behind debt-ridden corporations and a foreign debt costing \$26 billion. During a state visit to the US, Aquino promises to pay all the debts of the Philippines. Thus, the "honorable debtor" policy is born.



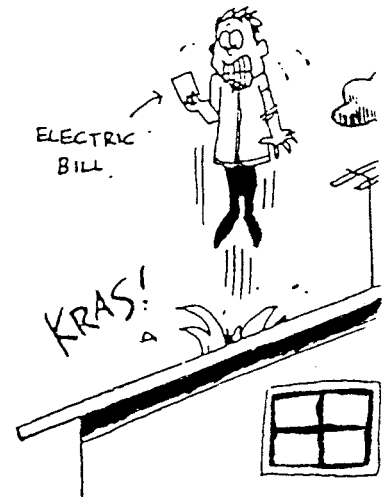
1987. After experiencing a brief boost in economic growth, the economy worsens. The Aquino administration implements the infamous Letter of Intent (LOI). Among others, the LOI causes the following:

- * Oil price hikes, which in turn raise the cost of commodities;
- * Freeze in hiring of government employees;
- * Lay-off of government employees;
- * Budget cuts for infrastructure; and
- * New, anti-poor taxes.



1991-92. With the economy still going down, the Economic Stabilization Program (ESP) is implemented, the country's twenty-first SA program with the IMF-WB and the third under Aquino:

- * Reduce government spending.
- * Less infrastructure.
- * Freeze on hiring new government employees, lay-offs, etc.
- * Smaller budgets for government agencies.
- * Remove subsidies to rice and fuel - the latter causes a 12% hike in power rates.



In cutting its expenses, the Aquino administration decided to scrap the energy program left by the Marcos government. Today, every Filipino feels the brunt of the power crisis that resulted from the lack of modern power plants.



If you have more questions on structural adjustment, the debt problem and how the country can progress, write to us:

FREEDOM FROM DEBT COALITION

PO Box 2, UP Diliman

Quezon City

Philippines

If you would like to photocopy a copy of SAPPED! contact:

C.P.C.A. Brisbane Branch, 84 Park Rd,

Woolloongabba 4102 or Tel: 07 891 5877

SAPPED!

- * Text: Ruben D. Canlas Jr, Jojo Reyes, Lota Cortez, Tere Melgar
- * Design: Ruben D. Canlas Jr. & Toff Hilario
- * Artist: Roey Cancio
- * Thanks to: Donato Mejia Alvarez and Sipat Design Studio.

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OPEN PIT MINING

Igorot Peoples and Benguet Corporation

This testimony was prepared and delivered by Cristeta Godio of Itogon, Benguet, Philippines for the International Water Tribunal (IWT) held in Amsterdam, Netherlands from February 16-21, 1992. The IWT is an international court meant to hear and pass judgement on projects affecting water quality all over the world. One of the ten cases chosen to be heard this year is the case of Benguet Corporation's Open Pit Mining in Itogon, Benguet because of its disastrous effects on the environment and the future of the people of Itogon.

ALLOW me to talk about the land I come from - Ucab, Balinguay (Itogon). It was a rich land. Our harvest from our agriculture was abundant. And so was our gold. Our mountains were filled with life from where fresh and clean water flowed down to the plains to irrigate our vegetable plots. Our rivers were rich with life, and even there one could pan for gold.

About the gold, it all started with our forefather, Baksai, so our forefathers tell us. He was fixing the stone wall of his rice paddies. Feeling famished, he started to build a cooking place with stones. While cooking, the stones got hot and broke exposing the gold within. This is how our earlier folks got into mining for gold.

Integral in our life as Igorots are our age-old customs and traditions. These traditions are sustained by rites and symbols which include gold instruments or items obtained through bartering our gold. Our earlier folks like Balbines, Codnel, Shukajag, Guirrey, Pacalso, and Eslao were people who encouraged our fathers to work for gold. And so they fared well in life. And because for us Igorots, land is life, our way has always been to nurture the land. We would not do anything to displease the spirits of the land.

But when the white people came to our place and saw our gold, they were entranced. They looked for the source and when they found it, they went wild. They started to claim our land as theirs, from one mountain to the other, including all the rivers. They were thirsting for our properties like wild dogs salivating for a prey.

And so they came to stay, to dig up and tunnel for all the gold using machines and people. Through the decades they desecrated our land with their mining operations. But



Grains containing gold ore, which have been pounded and run through a sluice box, are collected by women for a second milling.

Pen & ink drawing by Ben Cabrera from the series *Images of Women in the Cordillera*, CWERC Inc., 1989.

most inhuman of all is their utter disrespect of our right to be treated as human beings, of our right to live as a people who call this land our home, and their disrespect for our culture and traditions. All of these for the sake of a few who belch on their wealth while our people are left to suffer.

They claim they are doing this for the development of the nation. But does our death as a people mean development?

Americans are now gone. But, in truth, they never left. Their spirit continues to exploit us through what we now know as Benguet Corporation. The people in the mining company are now brown people just like us. But they do what the Americans did to our fathers, and much worse besides. How ironic that they took the name of the people they are now destroying.

Today, as I am passing on to my children the rich heritage from our forefathers, Benguet Corp. is bent on destroying the very mother of that heritage - our land. They have made us a simple phrase in their documents, referring to us simply as "small scale miners". We are mere numbers to them and our land has become fractions on their map of mineral claims.

Then in 1981, Benguet Corp. sent us a different message. Not content with having our land and its wealth, they now wanted us destroyed. They called it "a shift to open pit mining". But to us it means our death.

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OPEN PIT MINING

◀ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Their instruments started to bulldoze our place, blasting the rocks, destroying our forests, our farms, our homes. Burying all life beneath the dust, and digging up the dust of our forefathers to blow in the wind. The message was clear enough. First, they destroyed all life on our land, making it impossible to grow anything. Second, they destroyed all our sources of water. Aside from this, now all our streams and rivers are toxic with all their chemical waste. And our air is polluted, too, which are all the dust and chemicals emitted by their wastes.

The three elements of life - land, air and water - are now threatened and this is a crime they will have to answer for to the source of all life. They have desecrated the graves of our forefathers and this is a curse that only the spirits can forgive.

As we were about to be stripped of our land, we dared to stand up against the powerful. We were assisted by others who also valued life as it should be. The Mining Communities Development Center or MCDC and other non-government organizations helped us systematize our experiences of exploitation. They helped us translate into organizational terms our intrinsic solidarity bonds engendered by our customs and traditions. They helped us to be faithful to our identity and oneness with the land.

And as our unity and voices gained strength in the defense of our land, Benguet Corp. wasted no time in employing tricks of deception and outright harassment. They came to us with papers and talked to us about laws which they say give them the legal right to mine the land. And as they explained these laws to us, they tried to make us believe that only they have the legal right to the land.

But our elders courageously stood up knowing that we have ancestral right as well as moral right to the land. As a people we stood up, for we know that like every man, woman and child on this earth, we too have the right to live. This right to life we intend to protect as it entails the responsibility to protect and nurture the land, water, and air around us.

Benguet Corp. held no democratic consultations or public hearings before they started operations. If there were any, the response of the people was always NO to open pit mining. Instead the company used bribery, deception, threats and half-truths that played on the ignorance of the people. And so there were a few who compromised and sold their principles and sense of justice.

Memorandum of Agreements were signed to show that the company had the consent of the people. But these were rejected by the people as these were acquired using all the money at their disposal, and using empty promises of influence and power.

Many of us were charged in court for crimes we did not commit. And when all these seemed not to work, they pointed their guns at us and tried to imprison us in one mass arrest.

We tried to turn to our government for help through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or the DENR, but instead found them to be a mouthpiece for the interests of Benguet Corp. We now wonder if their hands are tied by peso bills for they blind themselves to what is obvious to our uneducated eyes.

Then they said that our community needed a military detachment. The 129th Company of the Philippine Constabulary was assigned to guard us. Is there an armed conflict, a war, that we have to be militarized? Or are they there merely to protect the interests of the company from the wrath of the people? After all, their guns are pointed at us unarmed civilians.

We are not at all surprised, for all over the Cordillera today, our brothers and sisters from other tribes have the same tales to relate. Where unwanted projects are being implemented, military troops have swarmed and launched their operations against the people they have vowed to protect.

We have customs in the Cordillera of chewing betel nut. This practice involved chewing the nut of a palm tree that grows toward the sky, mixed with a leaf from a shrub that embraces the earth, and powder derived from shells for water. Air, land, and water - the three elements that give us life.

The chewing of betel nut in this casual ritual demonstrates our harmony with nature, with life itself. But we foresee a future when there will be no more betel nut to chew. When the earth will have been ruined, the air polluted and the rivers and streams empty and dry. A future not of harmony but of greed.

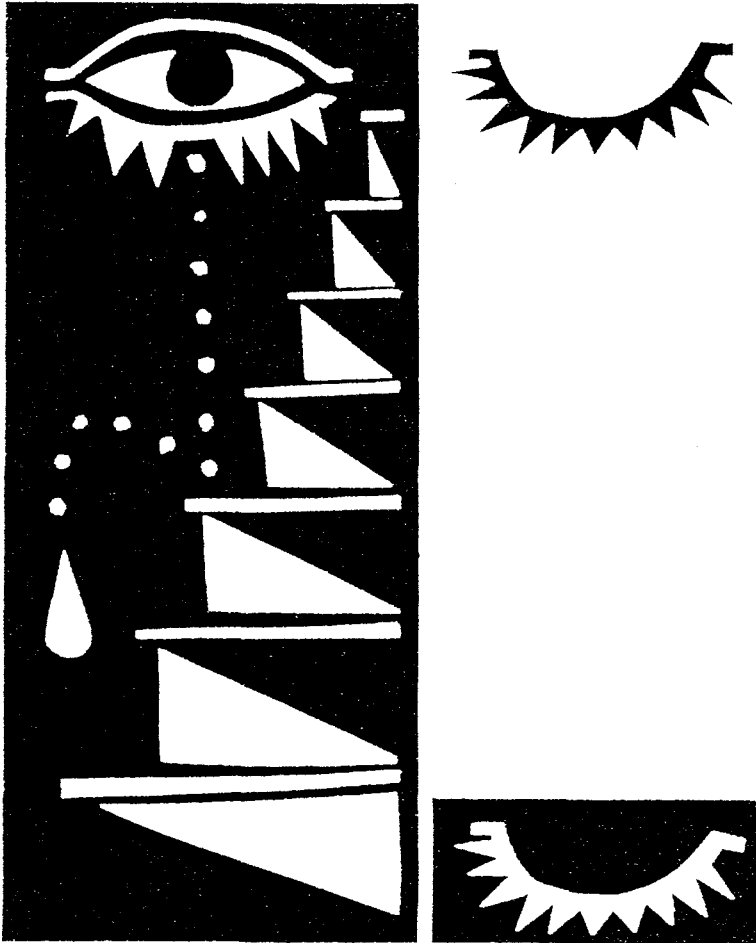
When I leave this place and go back home, I wish that I could tell the old man that there is hope for him to chew the betel nut again. Members of the jury, will you tell me to allow the destruction of our land and water, or will you ask us to continue our struggle to protect our life with life itself?

Reprinted from *Chaneg* Jan-Apr 1992



Photo: Geraldine Atkinson
- small scale mining, a major economic activity.

Graphic Design: Lisa Smith, July 1990, Women's House, Ph: 07 844 4008



Battered and Confused

I am a battered wife
I'm not happy about it
I'm sad but nobody
consoles me
I stay yet I want to run away
From him who keeps on hurting me
I feel so weak to resist
But so strong to endure
I want to fight, I want to shout
But I cannot do anything
I know it's not my fault
But I feel afraid, I feel ashamed
Sometimes I feel so insane
For it's always me whom they blame
What can I do?
Where can I go?
I feel sick and tired
But I still treasure my life
So help me run away
Before he takes my life away from me.

-Mijin Miranda

(Reprinted from *Chaneg* April/June 93)

SILENT SCREAMS

by Anthony Brown

IN the early hours of Sunday, April 4, 1993, Bruce Hughes was in his former partner's unit in the Brisbane suburb of Morningside. Deaf and mute since birth, Mila Bordador Wills, a 36 year-old Filipina, could not scream when he lashed out at her in the bedroom. Neighbours later said they heard nothing.

Mila and Bruce had separated in November 1992 after an 18-month relationship. Mila gave birth to Hughes' child, Marissa, in January 1993. She had another child, Melissa, by her first partner, Harry Wills, who she met in 1982 when he was studying in the Philippines. They had separated in 1990.

Hughes, 38, an unemployed plumber, found a piece of wood in Mila's bedroom and hit her, he later told police, "a half-dozen times around the head." When police found her, they initially thought she was the victim of a frenzied stabbing. Her body and the bed where it lay were soaked in blood. Hughes bashed her so ferociously that a doctor likened her head injuries to those that could be caused by a car accident. Mila died without regaining consciousness the following day at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital. Hughes later confessed to killing her and is currently serving a life sentence.

Mila Wills was one of 16 Filipino woman and 3 children to have died violently in Australia since 1980.

Three other women and a child are listed as missing and feared dead. Four women were repeatedly stabbed or slashed, three were strangled, three drowned, one was shot several times, one was savagely beaten with a heavy instrument, two died of carbon monoxide poisoning, and another two were found cause of death unknown. Two sisters, aged 5 and 12 years, were strangled and an 11-month old baby died of repeated blows to its head with a hammer - the mother survived the attack. In nearly all cases their Australian partners were implicated.

Joseph Sokol, 40, from Blacktown, New South Wales was convicted in 1987 of the murder of his 17 year-old Filipina bride, Rowena. Sokol, who tried twice to commit suicide after being arrested for her murder, visited her one afternoon and shot her five times with a rifle in her front yard.

In 1990, Charles Schembri, 41, an unemployed truck driver from Melbourne, was jailed for the manslaughter of Generosa Bongcodin, 25, a hairdresser. Schembri had met Generosa three days after arriving in Manila in 1981 and married her within a month. Two days before he choked her to death, Schembri sent her a newspaper cutting about the killing of Rowena Sokol on which he wrote words of approval.

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SILENT SCREAMS

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Ivor James Haynes, 63, strangled 5 year-old Elizabeth and 12 year-old Yohana in 1993 during their access visit. Found guilty of manslaughter, he will serve a term of six to 12 years in prison.

Of the estimated 80,000 Filipinos living in Australia, about 20,000 are married to Australian men, making them the ethnic group with the highest number of inter-cultural marriages in the country.

The Centre for Philippine Concerns Australia (CPCA) believes the high incidence of violent deaths and disappearances of Filipino women in Australia is an extreme part of the domestic violence spectrum these women face. Although recognising that most Filipina-Australian marriages are successful, the CPCA believes there is a growing body of evidence that a disproportionately high percentage of Filipinas who come to Australia on sponsorship arrangements become the victims of domestic violence.

Certainly social workers agree as they are reporting increasing cases of domestic violence, depression and loneliness amongst Filipinas married to Australian men and a growing demand for services. One Sydney social worker reports she has seen 20 Filipinas a month since 1988 with serious marriage problems, mainly domestic violence.

Australian lawyer, Dr. Jocelyne Scutt, in *The Sunday Age* (July 4, 1993) said that male preconceptions of Filipino women as submissive could contribute to their being beaten and ultimately killed. "The implication is that if you get a woman from the Philippines she will be perfectly submissive, a servant if you like."

CPCA's national co-ordinator, Melba Marginson, says the practice of seeking Filipina wives is based on the myth of Asian women as domesticated, docile and economically vulnerable and dependent. She says these men believe that as the women come from developing countries, they have saved them from a life of poverty and they expect the women to be grateful and repay their gratitude by fulfilling their every desire.

"These are men who usually cannot get partners in Australia, who cannot relate with strong women, and so they go out of Australia and get women who they think are meek, humble and domesticated. But eventually, once they bring them here and they find out they are strong and independent, they start using violence."

Ms. Marginson believes this myth about Asian women is rooted in sexist and racist attitudes. She resents media images of Filipinas in Australia as "mail-order brides" or "thrillers from Manila" and says these reinforce the myth about Asian women and portray Filipinas as inferior intellectually and socially to their Australian partners. The fact is the majority of Filipino women married to Australian men are well-educated.

In a 1990 study of Filipina-Australian marriages, two-thirds of the women sampled had completed undergraduate or

postgraduate studies, whereas most of their husbands had completed vocational or technical training courses. The same study also indicated that of the groups surveyed, Filipina-Australian marriages were less likely to succeed given the education, cultural, and age differences. (*Intermarriages in International Contexts: a Study of Filipina Women Married to Australian, Japanese and Swiss Men*, Scalabrini Migration Center, Quezon City.)

As for the "mail-order bride" tag, a 1986 University of the Philippines study of how Filipinas met their Australian partners showed that although 30% used formal mail-order institutions, the majority met their partners through informal networks of relatives, friends, and travel. The study found that although introduction agencies, pen-pal systems, bars and brothels served initially as the major means by which Australian men met Filipinas in the 1970s, by the mid to late 1980s, enough women had arrived in Australia for the informal networks to become the major means of finding a partner.

Emere Distor from the Brisbane branch of the CPCA says, "I think women in the Philippines have become commodities, and this is to blame on both the poverty there and on the Marcos tourism campaign. So Filipino women risk marrying men they hardly know and travel to other countries so that they'll earn enough to send money home."

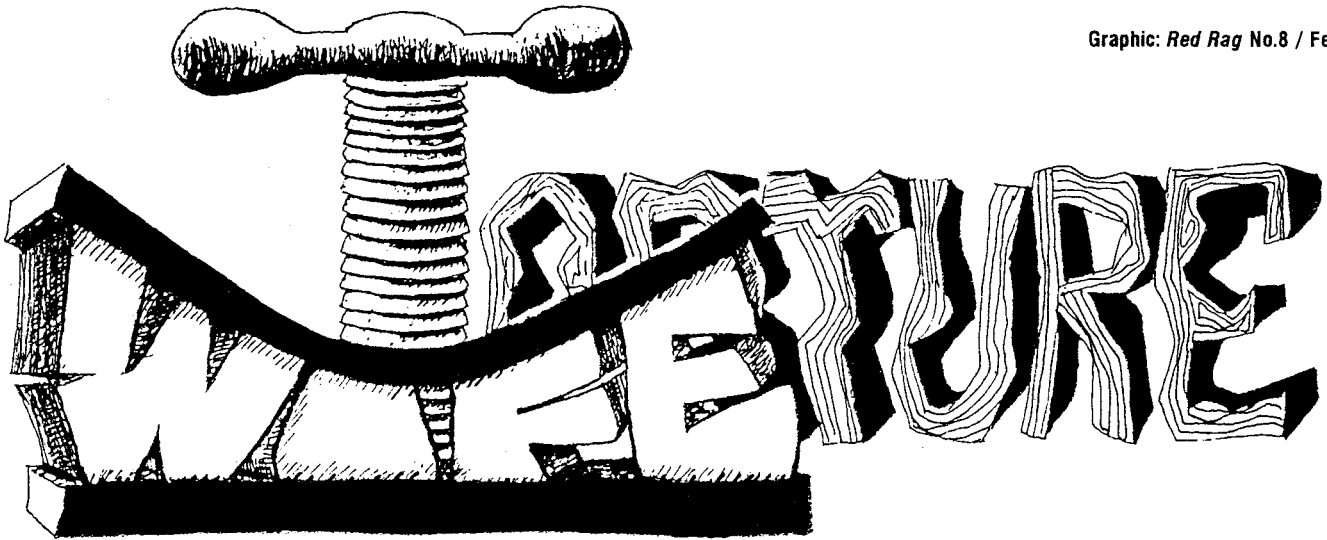
Ms. Distor says because many of these women are poor, they are vulnerable to visiting men who beguile them with promises of an easy life in the west. The men play the part of rich foreigners, often splashing money around to impress the women and their families. Unable to resist the temptation of living in the west, the women enter into relationships which they might otherwise have not, given that the men are usually 10 to 20 years older, the courtships are usually brief, and the men usually have very conservative views of a woman's role in society.

Once the women arrive in Australia, many discover that their kind and wealthy husbands are not what they had seemed. In fact, a number of studies indicate that many are on pensions or in low-paid employment.

Theresa Gathbonton, Acting Coordinator of Brisbane's Migrant Women's Emergency Support Service (MWESS) says financial abuse is common in many relationships and she has come across cases where the women were given next to nothing to feed themselves and their families. "I know of one woman who was given \$50 a week to pay the family bills and buy groceries. She has three children. How can you survive on that?" She says the men often hide how much they earn.

Aurea Payumo, also an MWESS worker, says it's common for these women to accept outside laundry and ironing at home just to bring in some extra income to feed themselves and their children.

Ms. Gathbonton believes that Australia's refusal to recognise the skills and qualifications of migrant women contributes to their being abused. If their skills and qualifications are recognised, then many may be able to get relevant employment and be financially independent of their spouses. ▶



In the Philippines, women often control the family budget, so Filipinas are shocked to discover that the men control the purse-strings in Australia. As for sending money home, Australian men often have a different view of family responsibilities and refuse to give the women money to send home to their families. This can lead to conflict as the women argue for the right to support their families.

"You are expected to send money home. In the Philippines families support each other and the family has all sorts of expectations about the women moving overseas because of the colonial mentality that anything overseas is much better. They think these women are living lives of luxury in the west," Ms. Gatbonton says. "The women often feel ashamed that they are unable to send money home regularly and they have let their families down. Many become severely depressed."

Besides the economic abuse, many women end up isolated both geographically and socially. This can be terrible for these women who usually come from large families and an environment where communities are an integral part of life. Ms. Gatbonton says that if the women live in isolated areas it also means that they do not have ready access to support services.

She says that although Filipinas who leave violent relationships can now remain in Australia, many are not aware that they can and the men play on this fear of deportation. The men use this to keep the women in line and so many feel trapped. Up until recently, Filipinas who left such relationships could be deported. If a Filipina now leaves a violent situation, once she has obtained an Apprehended Violence Order against the man, or he has been convicted of committing criminal assault against her, she can get permanent residency.

A 1992 report by the University of Wollongong noted that an increasing number of Australian men were serial sponsors of Filipino women. These are men who, having tired of their first partners, separate from them and return to the Philippines to find another. The most extreme example is of a South Australian man who had seven Filipino brides.

Ms. Gatbonton says although this report came out two years ago and was commissioned by the Federal Department

of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs (DILGEA), none of its recommendations for checking serial sponsorships and domestic violence have been implemented. "The South Brisbane Immigration Legal Service, the Bureau of Ethnic Affairs and ourselves [MWESS] have convened a group to monitor the recommendations of the report and collect more information."

She would like to see all sponsors legally required to provide their intending spouses with personal details, including abuse or assault records and any history of protection orders issued against them. However, under Australia's Privacy Act (1988), government is not allowed to collect and reveal personal information.

Ms. Gatbonton says the irony here is that when a Filipina applies to come to Australia, the Immigration Department scrutinises her. "She's got to have health checkups and supply personal details about herself and her family. And yet, there are no details required from the men. It's not a balanced view. What about the rights of the women to know about the men?"

From her experience, alarming numbers of women from a wide variety of non-English speaking backgrounds are suffering abuse and government agencies generally tend to ignore them. "Non-English speaking background and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are always on the bottom for receiving services and funding. You can see it's not a priority. We're always put in a box and stereotyped as if our concerns and what happens to us are not really important."

In the meantime, these women suffer. They are beaten, raped, psychologically and economically abused, and isolated. Some are killed.

In February 1994, two children discovered the half-naked body of Filipina, Elma Rebecca Young, 42, in a gully at Munruben, south of Brisbane, while waiting for their school bus. She had been strangled to death. Her police officer husband has been arrested. He will appear at Beenleigh Magistrates Court for committal proceedings on July 4.

Elma Young was the 16th Filipino woman to have died violently in Australia since 1980. **HOW MANY MORE MUST DIE?**

Water Supply Status, Phils. 1991

Source	Households served	as % of all households
Shallow or deep well	4,560,249	44.76
Communal faucet	1,058,922	10.39
Connected system	2,720,676	26.70
Doubtful source	1,849,327	18.15
Households with safe water	8,339,847	81.85

Source: DOH Annual Report, 1991

Water Prices

	1988	July 1992
below 30 cubic meters	85.64	148.92
50 cubic meters	162.54	292.84
100 cubic meters	467.74	749.98

Source: National Statistics Office

Cartoon by Pol Medina Jr. and Tables from 1993 IBON Survival Calendar



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We hold regular monthly meetings in Brisbane
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- ✓ Contact us if you would like to know about organised exposures with non-government peoples' organisations in the Philippines.
- ✓ Would you just like to know more about P.A.S.G. QLD.? Please let us send you a copy of our Aims and Constitution.

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Philippines Australia Solidarity Group Queensland welcomes membership of individuals who support the struggle of the Filipino peoples for independence, freedom and democracy. Members and subscribers are of diverse background including Filipinos and non-Filipinos. PASG QLD has close links with Filipino community organisations in Australia, the Philippines, and the Asia-Pacific region. We receive information from a wide range of Philippine NGOs and 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.

Comparative performance of Telephone Systems

Country	Average waiting time to have a phone installed	Cost of a 10 minute call to New York	Monthly subscriber fees
Philippines	3 years	\$33	\$21
Hongkong	1 week	15	6
Singapore	1 week	28	12
Thailand	1 year	28	4 *
China	2 years	30	8
Indonesia	4 years	35	4 **

* + 12¢/min

** + 2¢/local calls Source: IBON Facts & Figures, 31 Aug 90, Vol XII, No. 16

KASAMA ...means friend, companion or comrade

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW CONCESSIONARY RATE IN BOX ON LEFT

Acknowledgments of material used in this issue where not otherwise credited:

Page 2 - Graphic: *The APMMF Migrants' Journal* Oct-Dec 1992Page 5 - Graphic: *Midweek* Feb 10, 1988

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