

# LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

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November - December 2007

## CPP gears up for 40<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary

### CPP Information Bureau

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP-CC) called on the entire membership and all revolutionary forces to "prepare the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Party in the coming year by accelerating advances in an all-round way."

In a statement marking the 39th anniversary of the CPP on December 26, the Central Committee directed all cadres and members "to do our best to carry out the fighting tasks of our beloved Party and make significant all-round advances in the Philippine revolution in the coming year."

"The Arroyo regime, especially the fake president and her top military henchmen, keep on bragging that they can destroy or cause the strategic defeat of the CPP, the New People's Army and all other revolutionary forces before 2010," said the CPP-CC. "Instead, they are growing in strength and advancing because of the ever worsening crisis of the world capitalist system and the domestic ruling system, the Arroyo regime's detested policies of national betrayal, class exploitation, corruption and state terrorism and the ceaseless ideological, political and organizational work of the Party."

The CPP-CC directed the New People's Army (NPA) to "accelerate tactical offensives against the enemy in order to seize more weapons for building more units of the people's army and for strengthening the various levels of command from the guerrilla front to the provincial and regional commands and, further on, to the national operational command. We must be able to annihilate more units of the enemy forces in order to gain strength and experience for

destroying even more of these until we can seize nationwide political power."

It anticipates the armed revolutionary movement to grow in strength and "be in a position to deliver more deadly blows to the lameduck regime amidst the far worsened crisis of the ruling system."

The CPP leadership foresees the further worsening of the political crisis rocking the Arroyo regime. "The socioeconomic crisis under the Arroyo regime is worsening rapidly and generating social unrest. The broad masses are reeling from the pressures of the crisis and the rising rates of exploitation."

"The Filipino people have all the reason to carry out the new-democratic revolution through protracted people's war... they can avail themselves of the crisis conditions of the ruling system for building their revolutionary strength and advancing from one stage of the revolutionary struggle to another," the CPP-CC explained.

It predicted the further disintegration of the Arroyo regime as "a conflict of business and political interests is growing between the closest relatives and cronies of the fake president, on the one hand, and some of her allies within the ruling coalition of KAMPI, Lakas-NUCD and Nationalist People's Coalition, on the other hand."

CPP 40<sup>th</sup>, page 2, col 2 ...

## Rewarding a fascist vassal: Spain's Juan Carlos I praises Gloria Arroyo human rights record

By Ed Ladera

Exhibiting a shocking ignorance of the widely condemned human rights record of the Arroyo government, Spanish King Juan Carlos I grievously offended countless human rights victims and their families by heaping praise and honors on Mrs. Gloria Arroyo during her visit to Spain in early December 2007.

The Spanish King ignored or was apparently ignorant of the report of UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Killings, Prof. Philip Alston, which was already widely circulated and commented on long before the Arroyo visit to Spain. The Alston report declared that the Arroyo regime's counter-insurgency program was the major reason for the sharp rise in cases of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and other gross human rights violations in the Philippines.

After his visit to the Philippines in February 2007, Prof. Alston already issued a press statement, declaring that the military and



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**UNICEF exposes  
Arroyo's "dirty war"**  
page 3

**German police attack  
Turkish migrant workers**  
page 7

Spanish King, page 2, col 1 ...

police forces under Arroyo were “in a state of almost complete denial” regarding extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations which are “convincingly attributed to them”. In his final report, Prof. Alston declared that the Inter-Agency Legal Action Group (IALAG) headed by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, and established by decree of Mrs. Arroyo, should be dissolved for its notorious role in perpetrating the numerous extrajudicial killings.

Human rights watchdog Alliance for the Advancement of People’s Rights (Karapatan) has documented almost 900 such murders since the start of the Arroyo regime in 2001, mainly directed against those opposing her regime’s policies. Close to 200 involuntary disappearances and hundreds more of frustrated extrajudicial killings have been documented by Karapatan. The regime’s counter-insurgency program, Oplan Bantay Laya I and II, has caused the evacuation and economic displacement of more than a million people in the rural and urban areas throughout the country.

The Spanish King praised Mrs. Arroyo for being “at the forefront of liberties and the defense of human rights with the abolition of the death penalty, a gesture which gave us satisfaction and was applauded by the international community”. He even added that the Philippines was “opening the way to democracy in Asia”.

The Royal University of Alcalá also awarded Mrs. Arroyo with the Medal of Gold.

The Spanish King has ignored not only the Alston Report, he disregarded as well the reports of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch in 2007, the verdict of the Permanent Peoples’ Tribunal Second Session on the Philippines of 25 March

It also noted that the Armed Forces of the Philippines is “more factionalized than ever before. Majority of the officers and enlisted personnel are contemptuous of the Arroyo regime and the pro-Arroyo officers at the top of the chain of command.”

The CPP-CC cited the Trillanes takeover of the Manila Peninsula Hotel last November 29 as “praiseworthy for denouncing the crimes of the Arroyo regime.” It, however, “did not take into account the people’s clamor for change under the principle of civilian supremacy and the necessary sequence of mass mobilization and military withdrawal of support from the regime.”

2007, and the stinging condemnation by Dr. Sam Kobia, the General Secretary of the World Council of Church, of the gross human rights violations perpetrated by the Arroyo regime and its military, police and paramilitary forces against the Filipino people.

The praise and honor given to Mrs. Arroyo by the Spanish King also goes against the view of the Filipino people. According to the latest surveys, Filipinos consider Mrs. Arroyo as the most corrupt president in Philippine history, even worse than the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Her pro-imperialist and ultra-reactionary policies, subserviently following US President George W. Bush’s “war on terror” have caused intolerable misery and suffering on the Filipino people.

Asked for comment, Luis G. Jalandoni, chief peace negotiator of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, expressed confidence that “the Spanish people and progressive Spanish organizations — especially human rights advocates — do not share the shockingly misplaced praise and honor given by the Spanish King to Mrs. Arroyo.” ■

The response of the Arroyo regime to the Manila Peninsula standoff shows that it is “prepared to go into a bloodbath in order to keep itself in power,” said the CPP-CC. “It is therefore necessary for the broad range of opposition forces to engage in mass mobilizations that can discourage the use of armed force by the regime, as in the overthrow of Marcos and Estrada in 1986 and 2001.”

The CPP-CC said that the Arroyo regime has even made it easier for the NPA in rural areas by deploying more troops in the national capital region and other urban areas. “The NPA will face less obstacles in launching tactical offensives in the countryside.”

“The Arroyo regime is extremely isolated. It is ripe for ouster by the broad masses of the people and a broad united front of anti-Arroyo forces,” said the CPP-CC. It pointed out that the toiling masses and the middle social strata are the most determined in ousting Arroyo as “a great deal of vacillation is setting in among the anti-Arroyo reactionary parties, because some of their leaders have started to set their sights on the 2010 elections.”

If the Arroyo regime can manage to stay in power up to 2010, however, said the CPP-CC, it will only succeed in “pushing the people to rely increasingly on people’s war for changing the entire ruling system.” ■



The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is an alliance of revolutionary organizations with roots in the various sectors and regions of the Philippines. Its goal is to build a society that enjoys national sovereignty, genuine democracy, social justice, progress and peace. It seeks to unite with all forces willing to achieve these goals.

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL**

October - December 2007

CPP gears up for 40<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary . . . . . 1

Rewarding a fascist vassal . . . . . 1

UNICEF report exposes Arroyo’s dirty counter-revolutionary war 3

NPA score significant victories in 2007, more and bigger victories eyed in 2008 . . . . . 4

NDFP Human Rights mission to UN takes up disappearances, peace talks . . . . . 5

GREECE: Hundreds of thousands join nationwide strike . . . . 5

INDIA: Anti-displacement movement gains strength as state repression heigtens . . . . . 6

Gerard Raemaekers: Internationalist friend of the Filipino people . 7

German police attack Turkish migrant workers . . . . . 7

CPP tribute to Comrade Monico M. Atienza . . . . . 8

**LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL**

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- Ed Ladera
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# UNICEF report exposes Arroyo's dirty counter-revolutionary war

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

A United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report released on 27 November 2007 has exposed the situation of Filipino children victimized by the dirty "counterinsurgency" war of the Arroyo regime and its Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). The UNICEF report, entitled *Uncounted Lives: Children, Women and Conflict in the Philippines* presents documentation on the plight of about 200,000 Filipino children affected by the AFP's dirty war against the Philippine revolutionary movement led by the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The UNICEF report cites the findings of the Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC) and think-tank Ibon Foundation, which has documented 800 incidents of human rights violations involving 215,233 victimized children from 2001 to July 2006. The report cited the cases of 58 children killed by elements of the AFP and another 58 who survived attempts on their lives. Some 40 children were maimed and 17 children were subjected to different forms of torture and humiliation, it noted. It stated that 215,060 children were forced to evacuate as a result of military operations conducted by the security forces of the Arroyo regime.

It was also reported that 10 children have become victims of enforced disappearance or have become "desaparecidos". Five children were victims of sexual harassment and three were victims of rape by the military, 51 were victims of illegal search and seizure, 63 were victims of coercion, 69 were victims of illegal arrest and detention, 40 were victims of physical assault and injury and 196 were victims of threats and intimidation. The CRC also said that there were 106 orphaned children who witnessed the killing of their parents or relatives.

The CRC is a non-government institution serving children and families who are victims of state violence in the Philippines.

Dr. Nicholas Alipui, UNICEF country representative to the Philippines, has called on the government of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to protect children from the effects of armed conflict and violence.

Reacting to the UNICEF report, CPP spokesperson Gregorio Rosal welcomed the report and said in a statement: "In the AFP's vicious and heartless war against

the people especially in peasant communities, there is hardly any discrimination between armed guerrillas and unarmed civilians. Worse, in its desperation to suppress whole communities engaged in agrarian struggles and suspected of supporting the armed revolution, the fascist armed forces do not hesitate to direct their armed might and terror against children, women and the elderly."

The CPP spokesperson also categorically dismissed AFP claims about the existence of "child warriors" in the New People's Army (NPA). He stressed that applicants and recruits have to be at least 18 years old: "a ruling strictly followed among the ranks in all units of the NPA". He condemned the AFP for recently parading before the mass media two twelve year-old children from Central Luzon as alleged "NPA child warriors" and demanded that the AFP immediately release the two victimized children to their families. He also urged independent human rights and children's welfare organizations to aid the two children in their ordeal.

Similarly, Fidel V. Agcaoili, Chairperson of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Monitoring Committee, urged the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Children Affected by Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC) in New York to investigate cases of abduction and illegal arrests of children and minors perpetrated by the Arroyo regime.

In a letter addressed to the UN office, Agcaoili on 29 November cited the specific cases of Edfu de la Cruz (12 years old at the time of arrest) and Levi Mabanán (9 years old at the time of arrest), who were both arrested by the military in 2000 and detained at the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); three unnamed children (for security reasons) aged 4, 8 and 10 who were arrested in 2004 in the province of Kalining; Lynlyn Labitag (12 years old) who was illegally arrested in



*Parents of the 9-year old girl Grezil Buya Galacio in a press conference April 2007. Grezil was shot at the back of her head by elements of the AFP on 31 March 2007 who then accused her & her family of being guerrilla fighters of the NPA. To date, the Arroyo government refuses to identify the perpetrators and has instead stepped up military attacks against rural villages around the country. photo from Arkibong Bayan*

2006; and "Nena" (8 years old) who was illegally arrested in October 2007.

In the case of "Nena", the military even forced her guardians to give up her custody as an alleged "abandoned" child and turned her over to military agent Myrna Romero for "safekeeping". Lynlyn Labitag was illegally arrested by the military and detained at the DSWD to force her father, a suspected NPA member, to surrender.

Agcaoili urged the UN mission to investigate these incidents "as another category in the violations of children's rights by the government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) in the armed conflict situation in the Philippines". ■

# NPA score significant victories in 2007, more and bigger victories eyed in 2008

CPP Information Bureau

On the occasion of the 39th anniversary of its re-establishment, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said the New People's Army (NPA) "achieved significant military victories the past year, portending more and bigger successes in response to the Party's anniversary call to accelerate advances in 2008".

"Based on our summary of still very partial reports received from the field, clearly the revolutionary forces have gained significant victories in waging guerrilla warfare. Foremost is the defeat of the military campaigns launched by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) this year to date," said CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal.

Citing reports published in *Ang Bayan*, the CPP's news organ, Rosal said the NPA was able to launch at least 95 "big and small" tactical offensives nationwide this year. There are at least 200 more unreported tactical offensives launched by the NPA especially in Mindanao. In these military initiatives, the NPA was able to seize at least 327 weapons consisting mostly high-powered rifles, tens of thousands of rounds of ammunition, and various military and communication equipment. "These weapons are enough to arm at least three new companies of Red fighters."

Rosal said, "We still have to account for more victories in the tactical offensives of the NPA in many guerilla fronts, especially in Mindanao, where there have been hundreds of successful NPA tactical offensives the last three years, 400 of which were launched in 2006 whereby government armed forces suffered 330 casualties and lost 300 weapons to the NPA."

Among the significant NPA victories this year, Rosal particularly cited the raid at the Davao Penal Colony on April 7 that yielded 108 assorted firearms "without the NPA firing a single shot." He also cited the downing of a Philippine Air Force Huey Helicopter last December 14 by the NPA in Tanay, Rizal which killed four soldiers and wounded nine others.

"At least 204 government military, police and paramilitary forces were killed and more than 149 other enemy forces were wounded in these armed encounters. Nine government soldiers and CAFGU elements were also captured in the field, held as

prisoners-of-war and subsequently released on humanitarian grounds," added Rosal.

"Revolutionary punishment was also meted out against certain elements of AFP-directed death squads that are behind the extra-judicial killings masterminded by Arroyo's national security officials," said Rosal. "These measures were carried out by the NPA after painstaking investigations and judicious observance of due process," said Rosal.

"Most significant, the NPA was able to defeat division-level, brigade-size military campaigns of suppression launched in several guerrilla fronts since January. In the Ilocos-Cordillera Region, the attacking AFP troops were the ones who suffered casualties, numbering at least 33 from January to April. In the Northeast Mindanao Region, the 58th IB lost the equivalent of a company due to casualties and also due to demoralized troops that went on AWOL," revealed Rosal.

"Morale has been noticeably very low among junior officers and rank and file soldiers of the AFP, principally because they could not defeat an NPA that undeniably enjoys deep and widespread support among the peasant masses and other advantages such as the element of surprise, mastery of terrain and others," Rosal pointed out. "Moreover, the AFP is badly demoralized because of the corruption, fascism and terrorism of the Arroyo regime and its top military and security officials."

Rosal laughed off claims made recently by Philippine Army chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano that the AFP can put an end to the revolutionary movement in "39 weeks", alluding to the 39th anniversary of the CPP celebrated on 26 December.

Rosal challenged General Yano to surrender all his medals and accept dishonorable discharge by October 2008 as he will certainly be proven wrong when his "39-week timetable" expires.



"How can the deeply factionalized, demoralized and inutile government armed forces expect to defeat a solid, highly spirited and battle-capable adversary in the NPA," asked Rosal. "How can the fascist reactionaries expect to defeat the NPA when they are waging a brutal and barbaric war that only incites more and more people to hate the AFP and the regime that it serves. With the worsening poverty, oppression and sufferings the masses of the people have been going through under the rotten, puppet regime, more and more of them are taking up arms and joining the NPA."

"The AFP could not even concentrate the bulk of its fighting force on more than 10% of all NPA guerrilla fronts. They are desperately stepping up the recruitment of paramilitary forces, but with decreasing successes and increasing misgivings, especially as many CAFGU members are reportedly being suspected of supporting the NPA," said Rosal. He cited the incident where five CAFGU elements were massacred on June 28 by elements of the 29th IB in Las Nieves, Agusan del Sur, after they were accused of assisting the NPA in the raid of the 23rd IB detachment the day before.

"The New People's Army aims to achieve bigger victories in the coming year in line with the CPP leadership's call to accelerate advances," said Rosal. "We anticipate that the NPA will be able to launch bigger and more frequent tactical offensives starting the first quarter of 2008."

"All units of the NPA are challenged to surpass all victories of the past years," said Rosal. [*Ang Bayan*] ■

# NDFP Human Rights mission to UN takes up disappearances, peace talks

By Ed Ladera

An official mission from the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Human Rights Committee (HRC) recently met with various officials of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, concerning the enforced disappearances of peace advocates and political activists in the Philippines and the status of the peace negotiations between the Manila government and the NDFP.

Danilo Borjal, member of the NDFP-HRC, headed the official mission to the United Nations. The NDFP-HRC mission held substantial discussions with the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) and with various officers of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights about the enforced disappearance of NDFP consultants, staff and their companions, the deteriorating human rights situation in the Philippines and the peace negotiations between the NDFP and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP).

While in Geneva, the mission also had fruitful discussions with Dr. Syméon Antoulas, Diplomatic Adviser of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Edith Baeriswyl, ICRC head of operations for East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

They had a meeting on 21 November with UN WGEID Chairperson Santiago Corcuera of Mexico, and members Joel Adebayo Adekanye of Nigeria, Saied Rajaie Khorasani of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Darko Götlicher of Croatia, to follow up on the numerous cases of involuntary disappearances of NDFP personnel and their companions. Taken up during the discussions were the cases of NDFP Consultants Leo Velasco, Cesar Batralo, Rogelio Calubad and Prudencio Calubid, NDFP staff members Federico Intise, Leopoldo Ancheta, Celina Palma and Philip Limjoco, and their companions who were also abducted and have since been disappeared, Gabriel Calubad, Nelly Intise, Gloria Soco and Ariel Beloy.

Citing Mr. Corcuera, Borjal said that the cases would be taken up during the 83rd session of the UN WGEID. Any response made by the GRP about these cases, according to Mr. Corcuera, would be included in that session's report. Borjal said that the NDFP shall receive a copy of the UN WGEID's 83rd session report.

The NDFP-HRC mission also brought the UN officials up-to-date on the ongoing peace negotiations between the NDFP and the GRP and the people's movement in the Philippines for national and social liberation. Borjal said they turned over documents to Mr. Corcuera, including the NDFP's Declaration of Undertaking to Apply the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I, which has been deposited with the Swiss Federal Council in July 1996.

"Our mission to Geneva was very productive," Borjal said. "The various UN officials we met were sympathetic to the issues we raised." They also met with Mr. Safir Syed of the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Torture Dr. Manfred Nowak,

and brought up the torture and continued detention for almost three years of 63-year-old NDFP Consultant Ms. Angelina Ipong. Mr. Syed said they are aware of her case and are following it up. They also met with an assistant of Martin Scheinin, the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism, who has sharply criticized the Arroyo regime's Anti-Terrorism Act for gross violations of international human rights standards.

Borjal said they also followed-up on requests for the Special Rapporteurs to investigate human rights violations in the

*NDFP mission, page 6, col 1 ...*



## GREECE: Hundreds of thousands join nationwide strike

By Isah Antonio

In an unprecedented participation of the people for decades, hundreds of thousands of workers in Greece launched a nationwide general strike on 12 December against the anti-worker policy of the Greek government and the capitalists. The workers demonstrated massively and militantly across the country to oppose the policies of the government to diminish the basic rights and benefits gained by the workers through hard struggle, especially the right to job security.

The pro-capitalist and reformist trade unions tried to use every trick in the book to undermine the struggle of the workers and compromise with the capitalists. But they failed. Even attacks on the militant labor unions did not deter the workers and their supporters from launching the general strike.

Almost every factory, shop and other places of business were closed. Men, women, youth — the entire working people — flooded the streets and avenues in dozens of cities nationwide. The turnout of people in the demonstrations in Athens and Thessaloniki, the two major cities in Greece, was huge.

The people know that as the crisis of capitalism intensifies, their exploitation and oppression by capitalism will also intensify with the anti-worker and anti-people forces trying to reverse the benefits and rights won by the people. The united actions of the workers, the left forces and their supporters showed that the working people would fight and fight militantly to protect their rights, improve their situation and defeat their class enemies. ■

# INDIA: Anti-displacement movement strengthens as state repression heightens

By Roselle Valerio

The second anniversary of the police shooting which killed 14 people in Kalinga Nagar in Orissa state, turned into a show of strength for the people's movement against displacement and forcible acquisition of agricultural and forest lands in India. Numerous organizations from different parts of Orissa as well as in West Bengal, Jharkand, Chhatisgarh, Bihar and elsewhere came out in protest and vowed to continue the battle against landgrabbing by multinational



... NDFP mission, page 5, col 3

Philippines. Citing a UN human rights officer, he said that "the GRP has not given the approval for the UN Special Rapporteur's visit. The Arroyo government has been trying to give some pretext to postpone the visit".

Less than a week after the NDFP-HRC visit to the UN in Geneva, NDFP Consultant Elizabeth Principe, wife of NDFP Consultant Leo Velasco, was abducted and tortured by military and police agents on 28 November 2007 in Manila. It was only on 1 December 2007, after the NDFP had denounced Principe's abduction, that she was surfaced. She had been blindfolded, handcuffed and for 72 hours her ears were inundated with sounds. She was held incommunicado and denied visits by family and counsel.

Also on 28 November, NDFP Consultant Emeterio Antalan and his staff, Edgardo V. Friginal were arrested by military and police agents in Talavera town, province of Nueva Ecija. They were tortured and are until now detained.

The NDFP has denounced the arrest, torture and continued detention of Elizabeth Principe, Emeterio Antalan and Edgardo Friginal as gross violations of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) signed and approved by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the NDFP in 1995 and has demanded their immediate and unconditional release. ■

corporations and their local comprador cohorts.

Thousands of tribal people from Kalinga Nagar were joined by thousands others opposing mining projects and so-called Special Economic Zones in Orissa which have caused the physical and economic displacement of hundreds of thousands of tribals and peasants in the area. They demanded the scrapping of the SEZ Act and the shut-down of the Posco steel plant, the Vedanta refinery project, Mittal steel project and mining projects in the Khandadhar region, among others.

On 02 January 2006, 14 tribal people were killed and numerous others were injured when police fired at those opposing the Tata steel project in Kalinga Nagar.

At the All-India "grand rally" marking the anniversary, the rallyists pledged their support and solidarity to all mass movements across India which opposes displacement, SEZs, anti-people industrialization and pro-imperialist policies. They pointed out that so-called industrial projects in the last 40 years in

... German police, page 7, col 2

last 22 December, many friends and supporters were present to show their solidarity. ATIF spokespersons and their legal counsel said that the attacks were not the first time that German authorities tried to stop the operations of ATIF and demonize it. They also said that what happened was not an isolated case as they referred to the 28 August unjust arrest and detention of NDFP Chief Political Consultant Professor Jose Ma. Sison, and the raids on the homes of several Filipino political refugees in the Netherlands. They also cited several police actions intended to demonize progressive organizations, anti-globalization formations and left groups not only inside Germany but also in several other countries in Europe.

With the banner call, "Stop the repression, solidarity with ATIF", and "Long live international solidarity", the all-rounded campaign to resist the attacks on progressive Turkish migrant workers is being launched in several cities in Germany. Supporters from outside Germany are also planning solidarity actions.

In a statement, the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS), a global anti-imperialist movement, called upon the progressive and democratic public "to take a stand against this unjust and illegitimate measure of the German state against the democratic and progressive movement." ■

India have caused the displacement and loss of livelihood of hundreds of thousands, and the ecological destruction of large swaths of agricultural and forest lands. Tens of thousands of people in Orissa who were displaced by mining and other industrial projects over the years are now in abject poverty and are forced to work as cheap and casual labor.

The grand rally also warned against many non-government organizations and foreign-funded organizations which seem to mobilize the people, for instance in micro-credit operations, but in fact intend to divert them from the militant mass movement. The rallyists stressed that these NGOs are forces of compromise and agents of imperialism which need to be continuously exposed and isolated.

Meanwhile, state repression against the anti-displacement movement is heightening. According to a declaration issued by the Revolutionary Democratic Front, "paramilitary and police armed to the teeth hound villagers and tribals who are fighting for their very survival; when they refuse to let their land and livelihood being sold to the foreign capital and the local big capital for a pittance. And there is deafening silence against these unlawful, criminal acts of the state, on the part of the judiciary not to say the civil society."

In early November 2007, West Bengal state police and armed goons unleashed a reign of terror against the peasantry in Nandigram who were protesting against the landgrabbing operations of the Indonesian Salem Group. The armed fascists marched into the area killing those who resisted, looted and destroyed the homes of activists and raped several peasant women. A similar fascist attack against peasants and tribals in Orissa state occurred in late November.

On December 19, 2007, the editor of People's March Govindan Kutty was arrested and put in jail by the Kerala police. He was subjected to long and harsh interrogation for a whole day. The police later filed false charges against him and in protest against this, the 65-year old Kutty has gone on a hunger strike.

People's March is an independent publication which supports progressive movements in India, Nepal and other countries, and upholds the cause of national liberation, democracy, social justice and development against imperialism and all reaction. It has been in existence for seven years and duly registered with the appropriate agencies of the Indian government. ■

# GERARD RAEMAEKERS: Internationalist friend of the Filipino people

(14 January 1947 – 25 December 2007)

By Ed Ladera

On Christmas Day 2007, Gerard Raemaekers, friend and supporter of the Filipino people, died suddenly at his home in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Gerard came to the Philippines as a young Dutch volunteer in December 1970. He had refused to join the Netherlands army and opted to serve instead in development programs in the Third World.

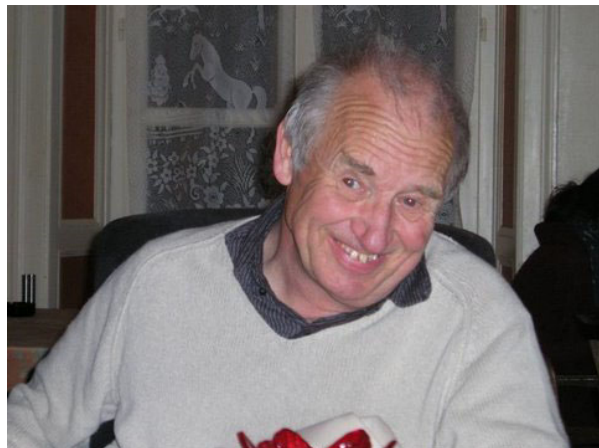
He chose the depressed region of Antique in central Philippines. He studied and learned the local Kiniray-a dialect. He lived in a simple hut with poor students whose studies he generously supported. He worked among the poor peasants, helping to build their cooperatives.

For about a year and a half he worked with great enthusiasm. Then a tragic event happened in 1972. He got ill with meningitis, fell into a coma for six weeks, and had to be transported back to The Netherlands. As his friends stood around him, wondering if his illness had affected his mind, he spoke out, "Guys, I am perfectly all right!" Then they knew his

mind was okay. But a major part of his lower body was paralyzed and he had to do his traveling by wheelchair.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) conveyed its deepest heartfelt condolences to his life partner and soul-mate of almost 32 years, Ms. AnneMieke Bökkerink. The NDFP stated, in a letter personally delivered to Ms. Bökkerink by NDFP representatives, Luis Jalandoni and Coni Ledesma, that his sudden death came as a shock. They said that the Filipino people have lost a great dear friend and a firm and consistent supporter of their struggle against exploitation and oppression, and for national and social liberation.

After his tragic illness and his great recovery, Gerard continued to support the Filipino people's cause. He was a familiar face at forums, demonstrations, and other activities for the Filipino people in Amsterdam, Utrecht, The Hague and other



Dutch cities. He did not hesitate to travel on his wheelchair to the train station, take the train and go to the venue of the mass action.

He was one of the founders of a Philippine solidarity organization in the Dutch city of Tilburg and remained an active member for many years. For years he transmitted a monthly contribution to the Filipino people's cause through the revolutionary movement. He continued to send financial help to development projects in Antique.

He had an indomitable spirit and a positive outlook on life, despite his physical limitations. He said, "I don't think of the things that I cannot do. I think of the things I can do!"

Gerard was imbued with an internationalist spirit. He loved and supported the Filipino people, but he also supported the just cause of other oppressed peoples, such as the Palestinian people. Every Saturday he went to the Utrecht market to participate in demonstrations for Palestine. He was also active in the struggle against the destruction of the environment.

Gerard's fighting spirit and dedication to the cause of the Filipino people and other struggling peoples will be a source of inspiration to those who struggle for social justice, development and progress.

*Mabuhay ang diwa ng paglilingkod sa sambayanang Pilipino ng mahal na kaibigang Gerard Raemaekers! Long live the spirit of service to the Filipino people of our dear friend Gerard Raemaekers!*

*Mabuhay ang diwa ni Gerard Raemaekers na matatag na lumaban para sa katarungan sa mundo! Long live the spirit of Gerard Raemaekers who militantly fought for justice in the world! ■*

## German police attack Turkish migrant workers

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

Progressive organizations of Turkish migrant workers in Germany are launching an international campaign to protest the Gestapo-like raids on 5 December 2007 carried out by the German police against several community centers of ATIF and houses of its members in eight different cities. ATIF is a federation of Turkish workers unions in Germany.

During the simultaneous raids, German police arrested members of ATIF and detained them for several hours at the police station. Personal files, documents and computers were also seized from the Turkish migrant workers.

The arrests and raids were directed by the Federal Attorney General of Karlsruhe who have accused those arrested of being members of the Communist Party of Turkey/Marxist Leninist (TKP/ML), a clandestine revolutionary organization

fighting for the social liberation of Turkey. Despite being banned in Turkey, TKP/ML is not banned in Germany. Nothing among the files and documents seized linked those arrested to the TKP/ML.

ATIF and its mother federation ATIK (Confederation of Turkish Workers in Europe), and many other progressive organizations and individuals in Germany and Europe have condemned the arrests and attacks on the migrant workers. In several public statements, the organizations explained that the arrests and raids have nothing to do with anti-terrorism as the Federal Attorney General claims, but are meant to harass, intimidate and persecute militant migrant workers organizations fighting for their economic, democratic and political rights.

During the launching of the campaign to resist the attacks against ATIF held in Köln

**German police, page 6, col 2 ...**

# Tribute to Comrade Monico M. Atienza

By the Communist Party of the Philippines

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the whole revolutionary movement bestow the highest tribute upon Comrade Monico “Ka Togs” Atienza, who passed away last December 5, 2007 at the age of 60 after almost a year of struggling against a grave ailment. He served the revolutionary movement as a true, courageous, enthusiastic and efficient revolutionary communist and contributed greatly to the advancement of the Philippine proletarian revolution.

Ka Togs participated in the reestablishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines on December 26, 1968 under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. He was elected member of the first Central Committee of the Party. Before this, Ka Togs was among those who led and thoroughly promoted the First Rectification Movement inside and outside the Party since 1967. He also rigorously supported the Second Rectification Movement launched by the Party in 1992.

He was only a high school student at the Far Eastern University (FEU) when Ka Togs became aware of the deep social problems and the need for a proletarian revolution to attain fundamental change in the social system of the Philippines. He joined the Kabataang Makabayan (Patriotic Youth-KM) in FEU and headed its student government. Ka Togs was a member of the delegation of students who visited the People’s Republic of China to observe and study the experiences and development gained from China’s national democratic and socialist revolution.

Ka Togs then went to the University of the Philippines in 1965 and became a member of the Student Cultural Association of UP (SCAUP), an organization that undertook serious study of the conditions of the country and Marxism-Leninism, and aroused, organized and mobilized the students. Ka Togs later became a leader of SCAUP.

Ka Togs was diligent in reading and studying history, writings on Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought and revolutionary writings on the Philippines, China, Vietnam and other countries and world proletarian and people’s movements.

Ka Togs was a member of the first Party group of the KM and served as its general secretary from 1968-1970. He led the rapid expansion of the branches in different schools and communities in Metro Manila and in the whole country. The perseverance of Ka Togs and thousands

of activists of KM, and the formation of numerous national-democratic mass organizations inside and outside of colleges and universities, prepared for the surge of the First Quarter Storm (FQS) in 1970 and the expansion of the revolutionary movement nationwide.

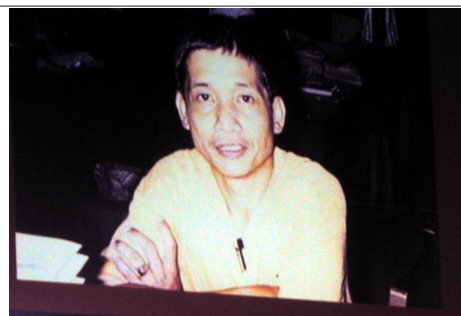
He headed the National Department for Organization of the CPP when it was founded in 1968 until his arrest in 1974. He was in charge of the strengthening of the organization and the cadre force of the Party. He led the establishment and propagation of the schools for national democracy which garnered several thousands of activists who were products of the FQS. The courses and exercises from these schools consolidated the activists, raised their revolutionary consciousness and served as a wellspring of cadres for the legal democratic movement and the armed struggle.

Ka Togs, together with his wife, their son and other comrades, was arrested by the enemy in 1974. Ka Togs suffered severe and brutal torture at the hands of the executioners of the Marcos dictatorship. They electrocuted the different parts of his body and burned his private parts. He was injected with “truth serum” in a desperate attempt to extract information. He was deprived of sleep while they played a tape supposedly of his wife and son crying from torture. Despite all the brutality of the enemy, it failed to crush Ka Togs’ determination and spirit.

Even in detention, Ka Togs maintained his militant and fighting spirit. He was unceasing in encouraging other political detainees to stand up and fight. He was among the very first political detainees to stage a hunger strike at the enemy camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan in 1976. Thus further earning the ire of the enemy. He suffered more torture and was held in an isolation cell. The brutal torture of the military left a deep and severe damage in the body and mind of Ka Togs.

After a decade of detention, Ka Togs’ revolutionary determination remained steadfast. He was released from detention in 1980. He went back to the university while recuperating from the physical and mental torture he experienced at the hands of the enemy. He got his masteral course and doctorate on Philippine Studies and later became professor of the Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature of the University of the Philippines.

Through his research Ka Togs contributed vastly to the history of the Philippine



revolution and development of the national language. His masteral thesis “National Democratic Movement: The Measures and Activities of the National Language” is an important contribution and influence of the revolutionary movement in the development of the national language. Ka Togs also wrote and translated into Pilipino several articles, dissertations, prose and poetry on revolution, history, science and technology, languages and grammar.

In recognition of his expertise on the national language, Ka Togs was awarded the Santiago Fonacier Professorial Chair on Language and the National Book Award in Linguistics. He was often consulted on the use of Pilipino as a language.

He effectively used the classroom and students to propagate patriotic, democratic, progressive and revolutionary ideas. He served as adviser to countless youth activists organizing and mobilizing the youth and students. His small office was always open for “consultations” with the activists. He unselfishly shared his meagre salary as a professor with activists in need.

Ka Togs helped in the establishment and administration of *Partido ng Bayan* (People’s Party or PnB) and became its Deputy Secretary for Organization. In 1987, PnB leaders and members became targets of killings by the military. Ka Togs and other members of PnB were ambushed and he was seriously wounded while two of his companions died. Ka Togs survived the assassination attempt but more damage was done to his body.

In December 2006, Ka Togs suffered a heart attack and went into a coma. Comrades, activists, friends and many others who admired and loved him visited and took turns caring for him in his almost one year of being in a coma.

In his passing, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the revolutionary movement wholeheartedly value the many great contributions of Comrade Monico M. Atienza in establishing and strengthening the Party and the revolutionary movement and in advancing the revolutionary struggle of the Filipino people.

These contributions are deeply engraved in the history of the Party and Philippine revolution. These contributions have brought forth and will continue to bring many advances and victories. ■