

LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

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May - August 2008

Gloria Arroyo's SONA of lies

Protests unmask oppression and extreme poverty under US-Arroyo Regime

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

With barely two years before ending her presidency in 2010, bogus president of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) Gloria Arroyo delivered her 8th State of the Nation Address (SONA) at the Philippine Congress on 28 July, that was widely denounced in the Philippines and around the world.

Massive protests in Manila and other parts of the country spearheaded by militant mass organizations unmasked the heap of lies that Arroyo spewed during her SONA. On the streets, the people's shouts attested that there is unprecedented hunger and food shortage in the country and the poor are lining up to buy rice; that the skyrocketing prices of petroleum products and basic commodities have further impoverished Filipino workers, peasants and the urban petty bourgeoisie who receive starvation wages; that massive unemployment has forced thousands of Filipinos a day to leave in order to work overseas; that militarization and brutal repression against the civilian population continue on a daily basis, and that the Arroyo family and the highest GRP officials are deeply embroiled in the biggest corruption scandals.

Even before Arroyo could deliver her SONA, transport strikes and protest marches had already erupted in Northern and Central Luzon, in southern Tagalog

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Protesters in Manila burn an effigy of Gloria Arroyo, here depicted trying to ride out the political and economic crisis with the plane of the United States of America. photo from Arkibong Bayan.

Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran, Hero of the working class movement

By Isah Antonio

The Philippines and the international working class movement lost an outstanding leader last 20 May when Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran fell to his death while preparing his roof for the rainy season. In a way, his death showed that Ka Bel lived by one of the ideals he expounded: simple living and hard work. He was 75 years old at the time of his death.

An outpouring of grief, condolences and tributes were bestowed upon a man who gave 64 years of his life to the service of the toiling people. More than 200 foreign organizations from 35 countries sent messages of condolence and tributes to the family and organizations of Ka Bel even as

millions of Filipinos grieved his passing. [visit www.arkibongbayan.org for some of the messages and tributes]

Ka Bel's life is entwined in the history of the working class movement and in the history of the national democratic revolution in the Philippines. His struggle was not bound by the interest of the Filipino people alone. He was also a staunch anti-imperialist who brought inspiration and prestige to the international movement against monopoly capitalism and its wars of aggression.

Born to poor farmers on 7 January 1933, he knew that he had to fight for societal change for the oppressed and exploited

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classes to have a better future. His quest for this future brought him into the path of militant trade unionism, people's war and parliamentary struggle. In every path he trod, he upheld the interest of the toiling masses first and foremost.

At the age of 11, Ka Bel volunteered as a courier for the armed guerilla movement against the Japanese occupation. At 20, he got his first experience of state violence when he and his co-workers at the Manila Yellow Taxicab Company launched a strike against unfair labor practices. Three co-workers were killed by the violent attacks of policemen and hired goons. The experience encouraged Ka Bel to learn more about the rights of the workers and this led him to the path of militant unionism. Together with labor leaders like Felixberto Olalia and Feliciano Reyes, he organized the Confederation of Labor of the

Philippines, Philippine Workers Congress, and other labor organizations.

Even when Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law on 21 September 1972, the militant labor movement persisted in their struggle for the interest of the working class with the formation of federations of unions in Rizal, and the Philippine Nationalist Labor Organizations, until the eventual establishment of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU-May First Movement) in 1980.

In August 1982, Ka Bel, together with other militant labor leaders, was arrested and imprisoned. But even the steel bars of prison did not deter Ka Bel from the path of the people's struggle. He escaped from prison in 1984 and joined the underground revolutionary movement in the countryside. Instead of a rifle, his weapon was a portable typewriter. He became a member of a propaganda and information unit and did organizing work among the peasant masses. His experience in the

countryside enriched his knowledge of the conditions of the peasantry and the united front principle between the workers and the peasants.

When the US-Marcos regime fell in February 1986, Ka Bel surfaced and returned to the legal mass movement. He assumed the chairmanship of the KMU when Rolando Olalia was abducted and murdered by elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Under the leadership of Ka Bel, KMU built a strong foundation of international solidarity for the working class movement in the Philippines.

In 2001, Ka Bel took the path of parliamentary struggle. Running under the Bayan Muna (People First) party list, Ka Bel won a seat in Congress. He would then win anew in 2004, this time running under the AnakPawis (Toiling Masses) party list.

In Congress, he introduced legislation for wage increase, genuine agrarian reform, revision of tax laws and repeal of the infamous Human Security Act. Amidst the thievery and corruption in Congress, Ka Bel made a name for himself as a no-

Ka Bel, page 3, col 2 ...



"We will continue with your heroism, Ka Bel". Comrades and friends salute and cherish the revolutionary legacy of Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran. file photo.

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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.

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US-Arroyo Regime escalates brutal war in Muslim Mindanao

By Roselle Valerio

A humanitarian crisis has erupted in at least five provinces of Mindanao, in southern Philippines, after a fresh escalation of fighting between the security forces of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ensued on 4 August, just hours after the GRP Supreme Court ordered a stop to the signing of an ancestral domain agreement.

According to international aid agencies, an estimated 250,000 civilians have already been displaced from the villages of Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and North Cotabato provinces since the start of the aerial bombings, artillery bombardment and ground armed assaults of the GRP's Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) purportedly aimed against units of the MILF's Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF). Cramped together in school buildings, sports halls and other makeshift refugee centers, the refugees are now facing hunger and the increased risk of infectious diseases.

The GRP and the MILF were scheduled to formally sign a Memorandum of Agreement on the Bangsamoro ancestral domain on 5 August before the issuance of the Court's restraining order. The MOA calls for the delineation of the ancestral domain of the Bangsamoro people in a large part of Mindanao island and the creation of a governing Bangsamoro Juridical Entity.

Speaking before journalists on 23 August, MILF Central Committee Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim said, "As far as we are concerned, the MOA is a final document, a done deal." The MILF, he said, cannot allow the renegotiation of the deal which took the two panels "four years and eight months to discuss, and initialed through the superb facilitation of the Malaysian government."

Both panels were mandated to jointly and separately conduct consultations and advocacy among their respective constituencies about the MOA. Apparently, according to Chairman Ebrahim, "there was a failure in consulting the (GRP's) constituency, to include the

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Residents of Kulambugan town in Lanao del Norte province pick up what's left of a school building after aerial and artillery bombardment by security forces of the US-Arroyo regime. Residents accuse Arroyo of "instigating a series of armed offensives from the MILF, and of handing over deadly pandemonium to the Moro and non-Moro populace of Lanao del Norte". photo from Suara Bangsamoro.

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nonsense and genuine representative of the people. Many cannot believe that a member of Congress could live in a tiny and unpainted house in a Manila suburb. One only has to look at his way of life and they will see an honest and hardworking man of the masses.

In May 2001, Ka Bel was elected founding chairperson of the International League of Peoples' Struggle, an international formation of hundreds of anti-imperialist and democratic organizations from more than 40 countries. As chairperson of the ILPS, Ka Bel enriched the international anti-imperialist movement with his prestige and statesmanship and his experiences as a leader of the working class.

Ka Bel never ceased to fight and uphold the interests of the toiling masses even with death threats, filing of multiple false criminal charges and even imprisonment thrown at him at every turn. Instead, these only made him more determined.

It is perhaps fitting to retell a story about how Ka Bel will be forever etched in the hearts and minds of the people he served: A young man was buying a wreath for Ka Bel's wake but the flowers cost more than he expected and was at a loss on how he could pay for the wreath. When the vendor found out that the flowers were for Ka Bel, she told the young man that he did not have to pay for the wreath. It was free since it was for Ka Bel. The other vendors from other stalls then made the wreath more beautiful by adding flowers from their own stall and by making the lettering of the sash more elegant. They said they knew how Ka Bel fought for them, the poor and the ordinary folks, and it is their way of saying thank you to Ka Bel.

Ka Bel died in the manner not to his wishes for he always said he wanted to die by an assassin's bullet or in the thick of a fiery struggle. But no matter the manner of his death, Ka Bel is a hero of the Filipino people and the international working class movement because he served them to his very last breath. ■

HOMEFRONT

... SONA protests, page 1, col 1

provinces, the Bicol region, the Visayas and in Mindanao island.

Jeepney, bus and even tricycle drivers demanded the scrapping of the value-added tax (VAT) on oil products and the Oil Deregulation Law. Thousands joined vigils, poverty and hunger fora, signature collecting, cultural caravans, protest parades, mock concerts, public market fora, and even a “fish strike” (fishing operations would be suspended) exposing Arroyo’s lies and demanding her ouster.

In Quezon City, where Arroyo was delivering her address, militant people’s organizations like the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN, New Patriotic Alliance), led several thousands in denouncing Arroyo’s SONA, describing it as “pretentious”. The protesters burned down an effigy of a glowering Arroyo atop her made-in-the-USA plane, to the beat of drums and a circle dance reminiscent of tribal rites in Northern Luzon.

Militant lawmakers led by Bayan Muna, Gabriela and Anakpawis congressmen boycotted Arroyo’s SONA and instead joined the street protests dubbed as the People’s SONA. Former GRP vice president Teofisto Guingona and representatives of the United Opposition also joined the protest action. Former Philippine presidents Cory Aquino and Joseph Estrada likewise boycotted Arroyo’s SONA.

Overseas, the protests and calls to oust the fake president reverberated in the Netherlands, Italy, Canada (Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto), the USA (Los Angeles and New York), Hong Kong and Australia. Like their counterparts on the streets in the Philippines, protesters condemned the lies and cover-ups in Arroyo’s SONA. They exposed the worsening poverty and intensifying oppression of the Filipino people by the US-sponsored Arroyo regime.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the SONA, Professor Jose Maria Sison, Chief Political Consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), said that Arroyo has such a long record of lying that no one expects her to describe the real state of the nation. Her lies, Sison said, add insult to the injuries being suffered by the Filipino people.

“Only the most corrupt puppet of foreign monopoly capitalism,” Sison asserted, “can utter such complete nonsense as that the industrial development of a semifeudal agrarian economy can be achieved through

Activists from other countries show solidarity with the Filipino people, marching and chanting against US terrorism and calling for the ouster of the US-backed Arroyo regime. photo from Arkibong Bayan.



wanton consumption chiefly by the local exploiting classes and through unbridled foreign borrowing and superprofit-taking by the foreign monopolies... The broad masses of the people are outraged that the Philippines cannot produce enough food for itself and has become the world’s No. 1 rice importer. Extensive tracts of land have been taken away from agriculture and used for nonagricultural purposes and real estate speculation.”

Sison adds, “Arroyo is poised to repeat for the nth time the lie that the reactionary armed forces and police can either destroy the armed revolutionary movement or reduce it to irrelevance by 2010... But the revolutionary armed forces are fighting back and seizing the initiative in political and military terms.

“According to reports in the mass media, the frequency and scale of tactical offensives and other actions of the armed revolutionary movement have increased. The forces of the New People’s Army (NPA) under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) are seizing more arms from enemy military and police forces as well as from their paramilitary and private security adjuncts.”

Jorge Madlos, spokesperson of the NDFP in Mindanao island, pointed out that, despite the sustained and vicious military operations of the US-Arroyo regime, the NPA is getting stronger and has been launching widespread and intensive tactical offensives nationwide.

“In the last six months alone,” Madlos reported, “the NPA launched more than 100 tactical offensives in Mindanao island, confiscating high-powered rifles enough to arm a company. It inflicted more than a company of fatalities and an undetermined number of wounded enemies.”

The Filipino people are indeed fighting back against the ever worsening conditions of oppression and exploitation. They are undertaking all forms of struggle, including the legal protest movement and the armed revolutionary movement.

In his statement, Prof. Sison concludes, “While the Arroyo regime is merely an episode in the life of the rotten ruling

system, the revolutionary mass movement of the Filipino people for national liberation and democracy is determined to persevere until it achieves complete victory. At any rate, the NDFP is ever ready to avail of any opportunity at peace negotiations after the Arroyo regime is replaced by a government that shows serious interest in a just and lasting peace by addressing the roots of the civil war through basic social, economic and political reforms.” ■

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speeches, both within the Philippines and international forums, he staunchly defended the Filipino people’s right to national sovereignty against foreign interference and intervention in economic, political and military affairs. He was active in all campaigns against US military aggression in the country, and he spoke firmly against the treacherous, lopsided bilateral military agreements between the US and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. Always adopting the viewpoint and standpoint of one who deeply loved his country by opposing the ills of imperialism, bureaucrat capitalism and feudalism, Ka Dan Vizmanos never failed to take and project the patriotic stand on issues affecting national sovereignty, political independence and human rights.

We learned that, even in the latter years when his health was failing, Capt. Vizmanos attended rallies, fora and symposia with regularity, seldom, if ever, arriving late. We were told that he always gave soft but pointed reminders to the younger staff of people’s organizations he worked with to work conscientiously – all in keeping with his discipline as a former military man, and more importantly, as a committed revolutionary.

Long live the noble memory of Ka Dan Vizmanos! His great love of country and service to the people will live on in the people’s struggle for national and social liberation!

The Negotiating Panel, National Democratic Front of the Philippines

Agrarian revolution surges anew in Negros

from Ang Bayan

Agrarian revolution is more vigorously being advanced in Negros island, in central Philippines, along with the intensification of the armed revolutionary struggle.

In one guerrilla front, farmers succeeded in their campaign to raise the farmgate prices of coffee, copra and other agricultural products as a result of a series of dialogues launched by farmer delegations with merchants. Farmgate prices of copra increased from P0.50 to P1.50 (or 200% increase) per kilo; and coffee, from P2 to P5 (or 150% increase) per kilo.

Farm workers also succeeded in almost doubling their daily wages. They are now being paid P120 from the previous P70. They now also receive an overtime fee of P10 per hour if they work beyond eight hours. Meanwhile, rates for winnowing have increased to P2 per day.

Close to 17 barangay (villages) have reaped the initial benefits of the advancing peasant movement in the island. These efforts enjoyed the support of other allied organizations and individuals in the countryside, as well as that of church people, barangay officials, municipal governments and other middle forces.

News of these victories spread like wildfire to neighboring barrios, towns and districts. The victories serve as a strong basis and inspiration for other farmers and farm workers to build their organized strength and fight for their rights.

In one village, peasants easily thwarted a landlord's attempt to evict farmers from the land he has been claiming for his own. The despotic landlord used paid armed goons and private security guards from his plantation but he was frustrated by the militant actions of the farmers who were supported by other sectors.

In a coastal area, a businessman attempted to displace some 100 families living along the shore. This was easily averted as the businessman suspended his ecotourism project in the area as a result of the residents' strong resistance. [*visit www.philippinerevolution.net*] ■

Learning to read and write in the midst of war

from Ang Bayan

A literacy and numeracy campaign was launched in a guerrilla front in the Southern Tagalog region to provide Red fighters the ability to read, write and do numbers — basic requirements to better understand and comprehend theoretical studies and other intellectual knowledge.

Just as in the case of many units of the New People's Army (NPA), majority of the fighters in this guerrilla front hailed from the lowest stratum of the peasant class, the poor peasantry. Only a few among them were able to finish grade school. Others had never even set foot inside a bourgeois school and thus did not know how to read or count.

Despite their low educational level, they are able to understand fully the roots of their poverty. They are determined to take on revolutionary tasks to end oppression and topple the exploitative social system. However, their limited reading skills constrict their capacity to carry out other functions that would strengthen the people's army, and other duties in organizing and mobilizing the masses.

A literacy and numeracy program was designed by the platoon leadership to address this situation. The program aimed to teach reading, writing and arithmetic to the Red fighters, and in the process, develop them, build their confidence and strengthen their capacity to conduct education and propaganda work.

The program began with a centralized study session, which served as a basis to evaluate the literacy levels of the participants. The students were then grouped into two levels. Students assigned to the first level were those who have never set foot in school. A program was drawn up that included familiarization with the alphabet and numbers and ways of reading, writing and computing.

The students in the second level, on the other hand, included those who were able to go to school but failed to finish. They have basic knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic but they still required further training. They were also taught correct spelling. They used as important readings the issues of *Ang Bayan* and other



revolutionary materials. The instructors were comrades who attained higher levels in bourgeois schools. Some were able to finish high school while some were college level.

In the beginning, it was easy to convince comrades to take on literacy and numeracy studies. However, there were some students, especially in the first level, who became easily disheartened by the difficulties encountered in learning. They were not used to using pencils or pens. Some students reasoned out that they suffered headaches from too much thinking and memorization. In such cases, the instructors used a one-on-one approach (one teacher focusing on one student) and convinced students who were having a hard time to continue with their lessons.

Because they were fulfilling a task that was new to them, the instructors also encountered difficulties in the course of the program. They nonetheless became flexible in implementing the program, basing lessons on the students' needs, and choosing appropriate examples drawn from their daily political tasks. For instance, computing the unit's expenses or drafting reports on enemy movements. The instructors made sure that there were collective discussions on the lessons at hand. Lesson plans were also drawn up by the instructors.

Classes were conducted daily — the first level in the morning and the second level in the afternoon. Each session ran for three to four hours. Before dismissing the classes, the instructors handed out homework to the students, which were then discussed in class the following morning.

Learning, page 6, col 3 ...

Al Haj Murad Ebrahim (standing center, in black), MILF Central Committee Chairman, held a much-awaited press conference on 23 August to present their stand on the aborted ancestral domain deal and on the ongoing hostilities in Muslim Mindanao.
photo from luwaran.com



... Mindanao war, page 3, col 1

local governments, armed forces and the cross-section of the Philippine bureaucracy. That's why there is now a strong uproar on their side."

In a statement released shortly after the escalation of the shooting war, the Communist Party of the Philippines condemned the US-backed Arroyo regime for messing up the peace negotiations in Muslim Mindanao for its own agenda of indefinitely extending its grip on power.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines and all 17 allied organizations, including the CPP, have been supporting the struggle of the MILF and the Bangsamoro people for their right to national self-determination, the return of their ancestral lands and the exercise of their full autonomy. The NDFP considers the struggle of the Bangsamoro as consistent with, and part of, the entire national democratic revolutionary struggle.

In their statement, the CPP reveals that "in the past years, the US-Arroyo regime has been treating peace negotiations with the MILF in the same way that it has been treating the peace process with the NDFP – full of deceit and treachery." It added that the regime only pretends to talk peace with the MILF and drafted an agreement designed all along to fail.

"The regime has further intentionally and maliciously induced anti-Bangsamoro chauvinism and upheavals," asserts the CPP, "and is now following through with outright military offensives against the MILF" and the civilian population.

It concluded that, "the US-Arroyo regime has all along been interested only in riding on the controversy raised around the Bangsamoro homeland issue to justify the call to amend the GRP constitution in order to extend its hold on power beyond 2010."

According to Prof. Jose Maria Sison, Chief Political Consultant of the NDFP, the US government and the Arroyo regime have "joint obnoxious objectives" in seeming to be for the MOA and making the MILF believe that the GRP was serious about signing the deal.

"Under the direction of the US State Department, the US Institute of Peace has been busy to help produce something like the MOA... in order to further strengthen its position in exploiting the human and natural resources of the Bangsamoro and in deploying US military forces in Mindanao."

Prof. Sison cited a US government report which said that USIP "helped the parties come up with creative solutions to stubborn issues of ancestral domain and started dialogue between disparate Moro ethnic groups." USIP reveals that "today's complex diplomatic landscape increasingly requires new tools and techniques of conflict management, including quasi- and non-governmental actors, to accomplish US foreign policy goals. Because of its ability to deal with non-state actors and sensitive issues underlying civil conflict,

USIP can be a useful instrument for advancing US interests."

Prof. Sison asserts, "The US is not interested in a just and lasting peace in either Bangsamoro land or in the entire Philippines. It is interested solely or mainly in advancing US interests amidst conditions of armed conflict."

Reporting on the human and social costs, the MILF revealed that the US-Arroyo regime's regular and paramilitary armed forces are guilty of killing scores of civilians, destroying private homes, public buildings, farmlands and crops, looting and raiding of private properties. GRP forces also suffered more than 180 dead, one C-130 transport plane destroyed and four tanks and several other military vehicles destroyed or heavily damaged. The MILF reported that 10 BIAF fighters have been killed in the armed clashes. ■

... Learning, page 5, col 3

There were also diagnostic tests after every lesson to gauge the improvement of the students. There were short and long quizzes as well.

Each student was given school provisions such as paper, notebooks, pencils and pens. The alphabet and flash cards were used as learning aids for the first level students. Students were also given one blackboard each so that they could continue studying even outside of the designated classroom.

Comrades who were not directly involved in the classes were likewise given related tasks. They contributed to the program by creating visual aids and drawing up assignments for the students. They also provided advice to students who at times encountered learning problems.

After a month, the platoon dispersed to different barrios to continue with their mass work. Because this situation could no

longer accommodate regular centralized studies on literacy and numeracy, a follow-up program was designed to ensure one-on-one teaching. The platoon leadership then assigned comrades who would serve as instructors in every smaller formation. Their task was to ensure that studies continued during vacant hours even as everyone performed his or her main tasks.

In a good number of guerrilla fronts across the country, platoons also draw up and implement literacy campaigns among the masses being organized, who have long been deprived by the reactionary state of their right to education.

This fruitful experience proved that Red fighters do not only learn the science of war. The revolutionary movement also ensures that comrades continue to develop and raise the level of their consciousness and knowledge to further improve their ability to advance the people's revolutionary struggles. ■

Global food crisis: Bane to the poor, boon to the agro-industrial monopolies

By Bagani Dong-ilay

As a result of the rise in food prices, total world poverty may have increased by 73 million to 105 million people," the World Bank declared in a paper, entitled "Double Jeopardy: Responding to High Food and Fuel Prices," published on July 2 this year. In the Philippines, 66% or 2 out of 3 Filipinos said in a survey conducted in March 2008 that they felt poorer than in 2006.

According to the World Bank, global food prices rose 83% over the last three years. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on the other hand, points to a 45% increase in their world food price index during just the past nine months.

Hard hit by the global food crisis are the general run of third world countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The high food prices caused protests and riots to explode in Mexico, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Indonesia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Yemen, Egypt, Haiti and the Philippines. Over 100 people have been killed and many more injured in these protests.

In Haiti, angry demonstrators drove the Prime Minister to resign. People in Haiti had been forced into eating biscuits made from mud mixed with vegetable oil.

There is more than enough food in the world to feed everyone. According to the FAO, food production has risen steadily at over 2.0% a year over the last 20 years, while the rate of population growth has dropped to 1.14% a year.

Contrary to claims by some analysts, population growth is not outstripping food supply. But according to Josette Sheeran, executive director of the World Hunger Program, "There is food on the shelves but people are priced out of the market."

Forty years ago, much of the countries of the third world had yearly trade surpluses in food of \$7 billion. Today, the third world food deficit has grown to US \$11 billion per year. The FAO predicts it will grow to \$50 billion by 2030.

What has brought on this present crisis of tragic proportions? It is the result of decades of imperialist-imposed "development" policies that have impoverished the third world and enriched the western agro-industrial monopolies.

From the introduction of the Green Revolution in the 1960s to the so-called structural adjustment programs in the 1970s, and finally to the promotion of "free trade" under the slogan of "free market" globalization, many formerly food self-sufficient countries in the third world have lost their food security.

In the 1960s, the Green Revolution marketed "technological packages" of hybrid seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Initially, the Green Revolution raised yields per hectare by developing rice, wheat and maize hybrids that could be densely planted and responded well to irrigation and high applications of fertilizer.

World per-capita food production increased by 11%. But the number of hungry people also increased by 11%. This is because the Green Revolution's technologies were more easily adopted by large-scale farmers. Small producers who could not afford the technologies required fell heavily into debt and were driven into bankruptcy. Many smallholders, pushed out of agriculture, were forced to migrate to the city slums now common throughout the third world.

Others cleared new agricultural land in forests and on hillsides. But the Green Revolution packages requiring ever higher applications of fertilizers also rapidly

degraded the quality of the soil. This eventually led to falling yields. Furthermore, many of the local crop varieties planted by traditional farmers steadily disappeared.

Ostensibly a project to save the world from hunger, the Green Revolution undermined the ability of the poor to feed themselves by displacing them from their land and damaging the agro-ecosystems they depended on to produce food. But the agro-industrial monopolies like Monsanto, Cargill and others reaped windfall profits through their control of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other farm inputs.

The spread of the Green Revolution coincided with the lending bonanza by imperialist banks awash with petrodollars to third world governments. For a time, credit was available to peasants to buy the fertilizers, pesticides and other farm inputs. Third world countries were encouraged to promote agricultural exports to pay the loans. But the oil crisis in the 1970s brought the world into recession. Many of the countries of the third world defaulted on their loans leading to the global "debt crisis" of the 1980s.

To enable the defaulting countries to pay back their debts, the IMF and World Bank devised the so-called Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) of the 1980-

Food crisis, page 10, col 1 ...

The price of rice has risen 100% since Gloria Arroyo came to power in 2001; 3.7 million Filipino children are malnourished; the price of the poor man's fish has gone up 25% in one year. Filipino women demand the ouster of the US-Arroyo regime for mismanaging the economy and aggravating the food crisis in the country. photo from Arkibong Bayan.



Global migrants' alliance holds founding assembly

One hundred sixty seven delegates representing 118 organizations from 25 countries gathered in Hong Kong on 15 and 16 June to hold the founding assembly of the International Migrants Alliance. Among the organizations represented, 102 signed up as founding members while 16 came as observers. The assembly also noted six organizations who have signified to become founding members but were unable to attend due to travel and financial difficulties.

"For a long time, others spoke on our behalf. Now we speak for ourselves." According to the alliance's initiators, "the time for the voice of the grassroots migrants has come with the resounding success of the IMA founding assembly."

In the spirit of international solidarity, the participants shared each other's experiences, learned from each other's actions, debated and reached unities which would guide the IMA in its future programs. Inputs from a battery of speakers who were mainly from grassroots organizations of migrants were helpful for the participants to arrive at common understanding of major issues that migrants face. After a painstaking process of finding common grounds, the basic principles of the IMA were firmed up.

The first day of the assembly featured presentations on the different themes relevant to migrants. Held at the City University of Hong Kong and co-organized by the Women Empowerment in Moslem Context of the Southeast Asia Research Center (WEMC-SEARC), the program was attended by more than 350 migrants including about 200 foreign workers – mostly domestic workers – from Hong Kong.

The Very Revd Andrew Chan, dean of the St. John's Cathedral and board member of the Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW) and the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) that are both based in Hong Kong, welcomed all the delegates and bid the conference to achieve its aims.

Afterwards, renowned advocate for migrants, Dr. Irene Fernandez of Tenaganita (Women's Force) delivered the keynote address to the assembly. She expounded on the global context of the

current migration process, how these processes have changed and were shaped by the developments of the global capitalist system, as well as the increased forced migration, especially of women.

She also took note of the apparent debate between the right to migrate against the right of people against displacement. She said that such was a false debate, imposed by people with a superficial understanding of what it means to be a migrant. "Free movement and the right not to be displaced, are two essential elements to the assertion of collective and individual self-determination," Fernandez explained.

A series of panel discussions featuring noted anti-globalization experts and activists from around the world outlined the broad concerns of the IMA. The themes discussed were: wages, job security, remittances and GATS Mode-4; the war on terror, immigration and refugees and the criminalization of undocumented migrants; violence against women, trafficking and globalization; health, family and the social costs of forced migration; and organizing, building of alliances and campaign strategies.

The panel presentations became very important inputs in the finalization of the Alliance's Constitution and General Program of Action. Included in the activities and programs is a call to challenge the Global Forum on Migration and Development which will be held in Manila in October 2008,

and a challenge to form country chapters and expansion into Africa and Latin America.

Elected to the governing International Coordinating Body were Jose Gonzales of FIOB for Latin America; Teresa Gutierrez of May 1st Coalition for the USA; Sol Pajadura of Migrante-Ontario for Canada; Mr. Ramesh Pandit for South Asia; Mr. Ufuk Berdan of ATIK for Europe; Mr. Nhel Morona for Middle East and Africa; and Dr. Irene Fernandez for East Asia and Oceania. Also elected in the ICB as members-at-large were: Ms. Tess Tesalona of Immigrant Workers Center, Canada; Prof. Robyn Rodriguez of PhilForum, USA; Ms. Rumana Sheikh of BOMSA, Bangladesh; Ms. Grace Punongbayan of MIGRANTE-Europe; Ms. Eni Lestari of AMCB, HK; Mr. Ali of Federation of Workers from Turkey in Switzerland; Hsia Hsiao-chuan of Taiwan; Ms. Connie Bragas-Regalado of Migrante-International, Philippines.

Elected members of the ICB Executive Committee were: Eni Lestari of AMCB-HK, chairperson; Ufuk Berdan of ATIK-Europe, vice chairperson; Connie Bragas-Regalado of Migrante-Philippines, secretary-general; Teresa Gutierrez of the May 1st Coalition in USA, deputy secretary-general, and; Tess Tesalona of Immigrant Workers Center in Canada, Treasurer.

The establishment of the IMA marks a historic chapter in the movement of migrants and immigrants for rights and welfare and for comprehensive social change. It was a timely effort of the migrants of the world to forge a stronger and higher unity in the face of daunting problems and issues that worsen the exploitation and oppression of the migrants. As the assembly's theme aptly put it, "it is now time to speak for ourselves". [from IMA *communiqué*] ■

CHINA:
30 years after the reforms

A public forum with:
Prof. Pao Yu Ching
Professor Emeritus of Economics
Marygrove College Michigan

14.00 - 17.00
Saturday, 18 October 2008
NDFP Int'l Information Office
Amsterdamssestraatweg 50
3513 AG UTRECHT
entrance: 5euros

NDFP-IO: ndf@casema.nl
Coni Ledesma: 06-24676537 | coniledesma@yahoo.com
Ruth de Leon: 030-2310431 | defenddemrights@yahoo.com

International anti-imperialist league holds third assembly

The International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) held its Third International Assembly (TIA) from June 18 to 20, 2008 in Hong Kong. The assembly carried the theme, "Strengthen the peoples' struggle, unite to build a new world against imperialist aggression, state terrorism, plunder and social destruction!"

Two hundred sixty-five (265) participants representing 165 peoples' organizations coming from 30 countries attended the assembly.

GN Saibaba, deputy General Secretary of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (RDF) of India read the keynote address of distinguished poet Varavara Rao, who could not join the assembly because he was denied permission to travel by the Indian authorities. In his speech, Varavara Rao underscored the theme of the TIA as "most relevant and urgent in the context of growing imperialist military attacks and unbridled plunder of the resources, labor and markets of oppressed countries." He further said, "ILPS has grown into a massive league of anti-imperialist, revolutionary democratic forces the world over. It has emerged as the centre of oppressed nations and people by bringing together the struggles of all continents on the globe."

Professor Jose Maria Sison, Chairperson of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC), gave his report by internet video. He cited the most significant achievements and shortcomings of the ILPS since the second assembly, the favorable conditions for further strengthening the ILPS, the challenges and urgent tasks.

General Secretary Arman Riazi also gave his report giving further details of ILPS achievements and underlining the bright prospects in further strengthening and building the ILPS. Discussions followed the reports.

A fitting tribute was given to Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran, the founding chairperson of the ILPS, who passed away on May 20, 2008.

A panel of distinguished speakers spoke before the plenary session of the assembly. The speech on "Neoliberal Globalization

and Labor" which was to be delivered by "Ka Bel" was read by ICC member Elmer C. Labog. ILPS Deputy

Chairperson Manolis Arkolakis spoke on "US Militarism and War". Haluk Gerger spoke on "Anti-terror Laws and Human Rights". Irene Fernandez spoke on "Labor and Migration". GN Saibaba spoke on "Forced Displacement and Rural Communities in India". And Wahu Kaara spoke on "African People's Resistance to Imperialist Globalization." Arundhati Roy who could not be personally present sent a contribution entitled "Attacks on Rural Communities and Displacement." A lively open forum followed.

Workshops were held on the 18 concerns of the ILPS. They featured prominent resource persons and produced comprehensive and specific resolutions with highly important information and analysis as well as urgent calls to action.

The General Declaration of the assembly said: "Today, the world monopoly capitalist system is caught up in one of its biggest crises since the Great Depression. This is principally due to the unraveling of the imperialist policies of 'neoliberal globalization' and 'global war on terror'. The US, which is the core of the system, is afflicted by a grave economic and financial crisis and is generating waves of economic and social ruin in all imperialist countries, in the largest so-called emerging markets and worse than ever before in the general run of semi-colonies and dependent countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America...In the face of the intensified exploitation and oppression by the imperialists and their reactionary puppets, the people have intensified their resistance...The daily worsening conditions of oppression and exploitation require the ILPS to intensify its efforts to arouse, organize and mobilize the people in their millions in building a new and better



www.ilps-web.com / www.tia-ilps.org

world of greater freedom, development, social justice and global peace."

A new International Coordinating Committee was elected composed of 27 regular members and 8 alternate members. In its very first meeting, on 21 June 2008, the newly-elected ICC elected its officers to compose the International Coordinating Group (ICG) and made several important decisions for the ICG and the General Secretariat to implement for the reinvigoration of the ILPS as well as in preparation for the next ICC meeting later this year or early next year.

The ICC re-elected as ICC chairperson, Prof. Jose Maria Sison, chairperson of International Network of Philippine Studies, Netherlands; as Deputy Chairperson, GN Saibaba from the RDF of India; as Deputy Chairperson for Internal Affairs, Dr. Carol P. Araullo, chairperson of BAYAN, Philippines; as Deputy Chairperson for External Affairs, Manolis Arkolakis from the Committee Against Military Bases and Dependency of Greece; as General Secretary, Arman Riazi from the Democratic Antiimperialist Organization of Iranians in Great Britain; as First Deputy General Secretary, Elmer Labog, chairman of Kilusang Mayo Uno of the Philippines; as Second Deputy General Secretary, Aliyah Brunner of Umut Publications of Austria; as Treasurer, Theo Droog from Nederlands-Filippijnse Solidariteitsbeweging of The Netherlands; and as Auditor, Malcolm Guy, founding member of the Immigrant Workers Centre from Canada. [from ILPS communiqué] ■

US, NATO stoke genocidal war in the Caucasus

By Roselle Valerio

US-trained and financed armed forces of Georgia in the Caucasus region launched a massive military attack against the inhabitants of South Ossetia and Russian peacekeeping forces on 7 and 8 August, killing up to 1,400 civilians and wounding hundreds more, based on reports from South Ossetian officials. The peacekeeping troops, according to Russian officials, suffered 64 dead and about 300 wounded.

Artillery fire, missiles and bombs rained down for two days on the South Ossetian capital city of Tskhinvali, destroying mostly civilian structures like private homes, hospitals, schools, power stations, and gas and water supply systems, and sending thousands of civilians fleeing into the mountains several kilometers away. Georgian president Mikhail Saakashvili also ordered an invasionary armored force into South Ossetia. Accusations of genocide emerged after refugees told of how the Georgian invasionary troops herded and locked up civilians in their homes and set them on fire, and how

Georgian tanks ran over civilians who couldn't run fast enough.

Russian security forces retaliated by driving into and occupying the Georgian city of Gori. Reports indicated that 160 Georgian soldiers were killed and another 300 were missing. On 26 August, the government of Russia recognized the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Both territories have declared their independence from Georgia several times since 1990. Aside from Russia, the independent states of South Ossetia and Abkhazia are also recognized by Nagorno-Karabakh, Transnistria, and the Palestine ruling party Hamas.

On the day before the Georgian aggression against South Ossetia, a joint US-Georgian military exercise, "Immediate Response 2008", was completed. It involved more than 1,000 US Army, Marine and National Guard troops. The US air force had ferried from Iraq 2,000 Georgian troops. Georgia, with a population of about 4.6 million, maintains the third largest contingent of the occupation forces in Iraq, after the US and the UK.

Ever since Georgia became an independent state in 1991, the US has been working to turn the territory into a pro-Western enclave in the heart of the Caucasus. The aim is to safeguard the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean, and to stoke political and military turmoil in Russia's southern borders.

Prof. Jose Maria Sison, Chief Political Consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) asserts, "It is very clear that Georgia would not have gone on its military adventure without backing from the US. Soon after the Georgian aggression, the US mobilized more US military forces to go into Georgia under the pretext of humanitarian mission of providing food and other supplies to the country's population... The US and the European Union within the NATO framework are involved in the armed conflict between Russia and Georgia."

Prof. Sison contends, "Emboldened by US and NATO support and the US promise of NATO membership for Georgia, Saakashvili has long undertaken provocations against Russia and angled for the fortification of Georgia as a base of US military and economic power... To stay in power, he has been subservient to and dependent on US imperialism and has frenziedly drummed up Georgian nationalism against other nationalities in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. These were autonomous regions

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90s. The SAPs were loan programs with conditionalities attached to them. The debt-ridden countries were offered loans so they could pay back the western banks. To get loans from the World Bank, third world governments had to sign IMF agreements to remove tariff barriers to foreign imports and privatize state companies.

This opened up these countries to widespread "dumping" of highly-subsidized grain surpluses of the US and European agro-industrial monopolies. Peasants in the third world could not compete against grain sold at prices below their costs of production and large numbers were driven to bankruptcy.

Then came "free market" globalization. The WTO was formed in 1995 to promote the so-called market-led economic development. The WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) restricts government power to implement agricultural policies on domestic supports, export subsidies, market access, tariffs, and quotas. These mechanisms are needed by sovereign

nations to regulate their farming sector and ensure stable food supplies. However, the WTO has a number of rules that allow the US and EU to exempt their subsidies from WTO restrictions.

Today three companies, Archer Daniels Midland, Cargill, and Bunge control the world's grain trade. Chemical giant Monsanto controls three-fifths of seed production. In the last quarter of 2007, even as the world food crisis was breaking out, Archer Daniels Midland's profits jumped 20%, Monsanto 45%, and Cargill 60%. Speculation is rampant. After buying up grains, traders are hoarding and withholding stocks, further causing prices to spiral.

The imperialist imposed "development" policies have ruined the ability of many third world nations to feed themselves. At the same time, imperialist countries and their agro-industrial monopolies have been able to take control of world food production and trade, putting them in a position to manipulate prices and squeeze the rest of the world.

Successive Philippine presidents from Ferdinand Marcos to Gloria M. Arroyo have dutifully followed the economic prescriptions of the imperialist-controlled multilateral agencies, the World Bank, IMF and WTO. The Philippines is now suffering the same fate like the rest of the third world from these imperialist imposed "development" policies.

Because of these policies, the Philippines has become perennially dependent on the importation of rice and other agricultural products. From 722,000 tons in 1997, rice importation reached 1.7 million tons in 2006.

From being an exporter of agricultural products in the 1970s and 1980s, the Philippines has become a net importer since the 1990s. The country now has to import up to two million tons of rice per year from such countries as Thailand and Vietnam. Ironically, these countries send their agricultural technicians to study rice culture at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) which has been based in the Philippines since 1960. ■

Comrade Prachanda elected first Prime Minister of Republic of Nepal

By Isah Antonio

In another victory for the Nepalese people's revolutionary struggle, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also known as Comrade Prachanda, chairperson of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M), was elected prime minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal (FDRN). Comrade Prachanda, the first democratically elected prime minister of the FDRN, garnered 80 percent of the votes cast by the Constituent Assembly of Nepal last 15 August 2008, in Kathmandu.

The election of Comrade Prachanda came on the heels of the CPN-M gaining a popular mandate in the elections for the Constituent Assembly where they got 40 percent of all elected delegates to the Assembly. The CPN-M participated in the elections after a decade-long armed struggle which deposed the monarchy and established Nepal as a republic. Its victory showed that the revolutionary movement has the overwhelming support of the Nepalese people and is thus set to advance from one major political victory to another and continue its historic task of building socialism in Nepal.

In its message of congratulations to Comrade Prachanda, the National Council of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) hailed the election of Comrade Prachanda as a great achievement in the series of victories in pursuing the general line of new democratic revolution through people's war. "It is because of their revolutionary strength that the Nepalese people and the CPN-M have successfully undertaken a series of political actions which include peace negotiations, alliance work, mass uprising and parliamentary struggle, to cause the overthrow of the royalty and the establishment of the first Nepalese democratic republic."

The NDFP declared that "the Filipino people and the revolutionary movement in the Philippines have high hopes that under the leadership of Comrade Prachanda as prime minister, the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist will continue to build on their accumulated revolutionary victories to accomplish the reforms that will strengthen national independence, realize the democratic restructuring of the state and army, bring about land reform and develop national industrialization, promote a national, scientific and mass culture and advance an independent foreign policy for peace and development."



<http://www.nepalmountainnews.com>

Prof. Jose Maria Sison, chairperson of the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) and NDFP Chief Political Consultant, pointed out that there are great possibilities of global significance arising from the revolutionary strength of the Nepalese people, the CPN-M and the FDRN. He stated that Nepal can serve as a base for promoting the global historic mission of the working class for defeating imperialism and building socialism and for generating the broadest possible mass movement of international solidarity against imperialism and reaction.

The Nepalese people and the Party have daunting tasks at hand. Internally, the forces of feudalism, the comprador bourgeoisie and reaction, and externally, imperialism, will continue to target the revolutionary forces and thwart moves to establish a socialist Nepal. Local and foreign reactionaries, with US imperialism at their head, will manipulate, sabotage and attack whatever gains the revolutionary forces have achieved. It is imperative for the Party and the revolutionary movement to continue undertaking actions to further the interests of the Nepalese people.

In doing so, the revolutionary movement of Nepal led by the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist will continue to have the support of the Nepalese people and the peoples of the world against any attacks by the imperialists and reactionary forces to destroy the victories accomplished by the Nepalese revolutionary movement in building a true democratic and independent Nepal. ■

... US, Russia, page 10, col 3

within the Georgia Soviet Socialist Republic in the Soviet era."

Predictably, the propaganda machinery of US and its NATO allies worked overtime to present to the world's mass media a distorted picture of the conflict. Outgoing US president George W. Bush spearheaded the misinformation campaign by misrepresenting Russia as the aggressor and violator of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

Largely ignored are official declarations and direct military aggressions of the US, wantonly violating the sovereignty of independent nations. The 1992 Defense Policy Guidance paper, authored by American neoconservatives Paul Wolfowitz and Lewis Libby, explicitly declares that the dominant consideration for US strategy is to prevent the emergence of Russia or any other country as a new rival. The policy categorically includes "pre-

emptive war" and the use of nuclear weapons.

Prof. Sison lashed out at the "hypocritical US preachings about respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries and about honoring international conventions.

"US imperialism is the number one violator of international conventions and norms," he said, "it has launched wars of aggression... and continues to flagrantly violate the sovereignty of Iraq and Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, the anti-imperialist network International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) issued a call on the people of the world to demand that US imperialism get out of the Caucasus and the Balkans, and that "the US and NATO cease to engage in military intervention and aggression and that the imperialist powers US, European Union and Russia and their puppets cease to generate wars and threaten the people of the world with a nuclear war." ■

Message of condolences to family and comrades on the passing away of Captain Danilo Vizmanos, true patriot and soldier of the people

By NDFP Negotiating Panel

The Negotiating Panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), together with its consultants and staff, extends its highest tribute to Captain Danilo Vizmanos and extols the life he led in pursuit of the national democratic aspirations of the Filipino people. He lived a life full of wisdom, courage and integrity, using his knowledge and skills as a former member of the reactionary Philippine Navy to serve the Filipino people.

Ka Dan Vizmanos was a genuine patriot, a revolutionary democrat, a human rights advocate, and a good man. He devoted the best of his years to the Filipino people's struggle for national liberation and democracy against imperialism and local reaction.

While still in active service in the navy, he wrote a patriotic thesis calling for among other reforms the reorganization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) along the lines of the People's Liberation Army of China, in order to wean the AFP away from its dependence on the US for its training and equipments. For this, he was put in a "freezer" by then-president Ferdinand Marcos and the AFP leadership. He was not intimidated but became even more resolute and courageous in fighting for the cause of national and social liberation.

When martial law was declared in 1972, Capt. Vizmanos resigned his commission, citing "incompatibility with an armed forces that was converted into a huge private army and an oppressive instrument of the Marcos dictatorship." Subsequently, he was arrested in 1974. He showed the depth and strength of his commitment in detention by withstanding two weeks of brutal torture, including truth serum injections, and helping lead the hunger strike of political prisoners to demand freedom for nursing mothers, the elderly and the sick, and for better treatment and conditions of prison. He acted as one of the spokespersons of the political prisoners in negotiating with the military custodial forces under the Office for Civil Relations of Carmelo Barbero, Undersecretary of National Defense.

After his release from detention, Capt. Vizmanos took up human rights advocacy on behalf of political prisoners and joined the militant mass movement, first in the

Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy (NAJFD), the Justice for Aquino, Justice for All (JAJA) and finally in Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN, New Patriotic Alliance). He was also instrumental in the formation of SELDA, the organization of former political detainees under Marcos. He was one of those who filed a class suit against the Marcos regime and testified against him.

Ka Dan Vizmanos was a man of the sharpest intellect and noble ideals. He believed in fighting corruption in the military institution, and in establishing a military that was neither mercenary nor anti-people in character, through reforms and patriotic commitment. Through his writings and

Ka Dan, page 4 ...



Ka Dan Vizmanos: Great hero and true soldier of the people

Retired Captain Danilo Vizmanos graduated from the US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point in New York in 1950 and soon after joined the officer corps of the reactionary Philippine Navy. He was in Vietnam in the 1960s as a member of the Office of the Inspector General. He saw the burned children victims of US bombings. In 1970 he recommended to the US-Marcos regime the recognition of the People's Republic of China, the adoption of a non-aligned policy in foreign relations, and the abrogation of existing military agreements with the US. In reaction, his superiors put him on a "freezer", thus stopping his further promotion.

By 1972, he was favorably comparing the Vietnamese Liberation Movement to the New People's Army. Upon declaration of martial law in 1972, he resigned from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. From then on, he became a militant activist leader for more than 30 years.

Capt. Vizmanos, or Ka Dan to many, passed away after a long illness on 23 June 2008. He is survived by four children, Diane, Erwin, Alice and Danny, and 12 grandchildren. His wife, Alicia, died in 2006. Diane said the family would rather celebrate their father's life than mourn his death. "He lived a full life and devoted it to the Filipino people...he's my idol," she said in an interview. NDFP Chief Political Consultant, Professor Jose Maria Sison, declared: "We and all his countrymen take pride in Ka Dan Vizmanos, great hero and true soldier of the people."

Ka Dan wrote three books: *Through the Eye of the Storm* in 2000, *Martial Law Diary and Other Papers* in 2003, and *A Matter of Conviction* in 2006. In the introduction to his third book, he said it is "a critique of a social order that has chained our country to its colonial moorings despite more than half a century of 'independence.' It is also a critique of successive regimes whose response to the people's cry for social justice and emancipation from economic bondage has been the consistent application of state repression, militarization and counterinsurgency operations. It also includes a critical analysis of significant national issues, state decisions and policies whose effects and implications on the people are far-reaching and extends to future generations."

At a tribute-celebration in his honor less than two months before he died, he told everyone to continue fighting. "Beyond Gloria, we must break free from the chains of colonial rule." [By Ed Ladera]