

LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

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March - April 2008 ♦ Special Issue

Filipinos celebrate 35th founding anniversary of the NDFP

By Roselle Valerio

April 24, 2008 marks the 35th founding anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. On this date in 1973, the Preparatory Commission of the NDFP announced its overall program to promote the unity, cooperation and coordination of all patriotic and progressive classes and sectors in order to fight for national liberation and democracy and to overthrow the oppressive and exploitative ruling social system in the Philippines.

Since several days ago, allied organizations of the NDFP and the Filipino people had been gathering in the guerrilla fronts and consolidated revolutionary bases, as well as in cities and town centers, to celebrate the victories thus far achieved in the national democratic revolution. The gatherings also used the occasion to commemorate the contributions and ultimate sacrifice made by hundreds of martyrs of the revolution.

Outside the country, the NDFP International Information Office spear-headed on 26 April the anniversary celebrations in Amsterdam, consisting of literature and arts exhibits, short-film screenings, a forum featuring Professor Jose Maria Sison and Luis G Jalandoni, and cultural performances of migrant Filipinos and solidarity organizations from the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Ireland, Turkey and Indonesia.

Prof. Sison, founding Chairperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines and NDFP Chief Political Consultant, declared that, "it is fitting and proper that we are exceedingly jubilant over the 35th anniversary of the founding of the NDFP. It has won great victories in the application and development of the policy and tactics of the united front in advancing the people's democratic revolution against foreign monopoly capitalism, domestic feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism."



The CPP formed the NDFP Preparatory Commission in 1971 in the midst of the rapid growth of the revolutionary mass movement and right before the declaration of martial law by the US-puppet dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. Since then, the NDFP has become the most consolidated and most powerful united front of revolutionary forces in the Philippines.

"It has succeeded in gathering, harmonizing and coordinating the revolutionary forces and winning over the millions of people to the cause of armed revolution," added Prof. Sison. "It has promoted the growth of all its allied organizations, the revolutionary mass movement and the organs of political power. It has served as the base for various types of alliances."

The NDFP is now composed of 17 allied organizations which represent the alliance of the working class, peasantry, urban petty bourgeoisie and indigenous peoples fighting for national and social liberation: Artists and Writers of the People (ARMAS, Artista at Manunulat ng Sambayanan), Christians for National Liberation (CNL), Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), Cordillera People's Democratic Front

(CPDF), Association of Patriotic Teachers (KAGUMA, Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan), Patriotic Youth (KM, Kabataang Makabayan), Association of Workers' Organizations (KASAMA, Katipunan ng Samahan ng mga Manggagawa), Patriotic Filipino Employees (KAWANI, Makabayang Kawaning Pilipino), League of Science for the People (LAB, Liga ng Agham Para sa Bayan), Revolutionary Organization of Lumads (LUMAD), Patriotic Movement of New Women (MAKIBAKA, Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan), Patriotic Health Organization (MASAPA, Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan), Moro Resistance and Liberation Organization (MRLO), New People's Army (NPA), National Association of Peasants (PKM, Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid), Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions (RCTU), and the Council of Lawyers for the People (LUMABAN, Lupon ng mga Manananggol para sa Bayan).

These organizations operate in 70 out of the total 81 provinces in the Philippines, in more than 120 guerrilla fronts and bases. A number of NDFP allied organizations also

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operates clandestinely in the town centers and cities, including the nation's capital, Manila. In the countryside, the New People's Army carried out in 2007 more than 500 tactical offensives of varying scales. The number of NPA fighters is augmented by tens of thousands in the people's militias and further on by hundreds of thousands in self-defense units of the mass organizations.

According to Luis G. Jalandoni, NDFP Chief International Representative and Chairperson of the NDFP Negotiating Panel, "the major portion of the work of the NDFP and its allied organizations is in the vast Philippine countryside.

"Revolutionary mass organizations of peasants and farmworkers, workers, women, youth, cultural groups and children are set up. Mass campaigns of land reform, health, education, culture, and self-defense are carried out. These are meant to respond to the peasants' basic aspiration for land and improvement of agricultural production, their needs for sufficient health care, and their demands for widespread literacy and cultural activities."

Jalandoni adds that, "organs of political power or alternative governments are formed from the village level upwards, while the NPA and the CPP are strengthened at every level for the eventual seizure of national political power."

The second-highest policy making body of the NDFP, the National Council, has recently summed up its accumulated victories and reported that all the 17 allied organizations are growing in strength and advancing. According to the National Council, this growth serves as a solid base for winning greater victories and in further developing various types of alliances, generating mass campaigns and attracting the broad masses of the people to the revolutionary cause against the US-puppet Arroyo regime and the entire ruling system.

In an earlier report, Philippine revolutionary forces plan to increase the number of guerrilla fronts from the current level of 120-130 to a new level of 173, in order to cover every congressional district in the countryside of the 81 provinces. The New People's Army was exhorted to increase its efforts to destroy the armed power of the reactionaries and build more fighting units.

The task of the NDFP is to facilitate, assist and oversee the further development of the revolutionary mass organizations and organs of political power at various levels.

Peace Negotiations

"The revolutionary forces, the people's revolutionary government and the broad masses of the people have authorized the NDFP to represent them in peace negotiations with the reactionary government," clarified Prof. Sison.

"In this regard, the NDFP has upheld the integrity of the people's revolutionary government and the revolutionary movement. It has worked fruitfully for the unity of compatriots abroad and for international solidarity at the popular and diplomatic levels."

Philippine revolutionary forces have been successful in entering into peace negotiations with successive governments of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) while continuing to adhere to the line of national democratic revolution with a socialist perspective as the line for a just and lasting peace.

The NDFP has also successfully demonstrated that the peace negotiations is a form of legal struggle, which is subordinate to the revolutionary armed struggle or even to the legal democratic mass struggles.

The GRP-NDFP peace negotiations have thus far produced the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. This is viewed as a significant document,

beneficial to the people and the revolutionary forces, even if it has limitations and defects.

Through the peace negotiations, the NDFP has also put itself forward as the equal of the GRP as a co-belligerent in a civil war in the light of international law. The revolutionary integrity of the NDFP and its allied organizations is intact and there is no surrender to the legal and judicial system of the reactionary state.

The revolutionary united front in the Philippines also has an international dimension. Since its founding, the NDFP has linked with the anti-imperialist united front on an international scale. The Philippine revolution is part of the common struggle of the people of the world against imperialism. It is as well the internationalist duty of the Filipino people to contribute their strength to the international united front.

According to Prof. Sison, "the ceaseless worsening of the crisis of the world capitalist system and that of the Philippine ruling system is favorable to the NDFP's international work. This work involves political work among the overseas Filipinos



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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Living (and struggling) with the Filipino masses

By Koen Hostyn

In the summer of last year I joined a group of Belgian youth that travelled to the Philippines to see for ourselves the situation of the Filipino masses and their continuing struggle. Just like most members of the delegation, I was visiting a third world country for the first time.

The highlights of the exposure trip was our integration with the peasants, our participation in a workers' strike, and our visit to a meet our fellow students and join them in their organizing and propaganda work.

All united: Peasants, workers, students

At Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac, north of Manila, we witnessed first-hand how the peasants and farmworkers were for generations being exploited under the hacienda system introduced by the Spanish colonizers hundreds of years ago. While a handful of families control most of the country's arable land, peasants and other agricultural workers, who comprise the majority of Philippine population, work practically like slaves, for a measly pay.

The extreme exploitation the peasant masses experience pushes them to organize themselves and confront their landlords. And what do they get in return? Bullets from the hacienda guards and the country's military and police, just like what happened in 2004 when scores of striking farmworkers were killed following a violent dispersal operation.

The hacienda peasants and farmworkers had remained undaunted though despite the violence, as we witnessed their determination to strengthen their ranks. Today the 6,000-hectare hacienda has been subjected to land reform and the tillers have vowed to continue organizing themselves to defend their initial victories.

In assessing their struggle for land, not a few peasants had intimated to us that their victory would not have been possible without the support of the National Democratic Front and its member organizations.

To better understand the hardships they go through every day, we decided to join some peasants in planting rice. After just a



Foreign friends and comrades joined the massive demonstration in Manila on 23 July 2007 dubbed the "People's SONA", to expose the lies of US-puppet president Gloria Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address (SONA). Arkibong Bayan photo.

few hours working under the blazing sun we already understood how it was to be exploited. This had only strengthened our admiration for these people who are always looked down by many.

After spending time with the peasants, we went to Southern Tagalog, south of Manila, to join the picket line set up by workers of Nestlé. We learned that the workers had been on strike for the last six years already. The workers had stood their ground despite several return-to-work order issued by the local courts and the series of fascist attacks employed by the management and the local police and military. Dispersal operations, intimidation, and even killing union leaders have been resorted to by the authorities.

The strikers showed us a video of their past protest actions in front of the factory gates. We cheered and applauded when we heard them chant: "The working class is the force of liberation!" Once again, we were moved by the courage and determination of the Filipino masses.

Next stop was the Polytechnic University of the Philippines to meet some student activists. We had been looking forward to meeting our fellow students, we being students ourselves. And it would not take

us long before we were inspired by the strong commitment shown by the university organizers we met here.

One thing we tried to learn from the students was their ability to tackle the issues that would arouse and mobilize the students. We were amazed at their creative approach to propaganda work. What better way to learn these skills than joining them in their day-to-day organizing work? They let us assist them in a room-to-room campaign to mobilize students for the Sona (the Philippine president's state-of-the-nation address) rally. We also helped in making placards that would be used for the rally.

At the rally we joined the other international guests and gave interviews to the Philippine media. Because we openly called for the ouster of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, we received word that the Bureau of Immigration wanted to deport us. Fortunately, that did not happen.

Differences, similarities

The first thing that struck us, as a group of petty-bourgeois student organizers, was the big difference between the local

Exposure trip, page 7, col 2 ...

in order to defend their rights and promote their welfare. It also involves work to further strengthen and develop solidarity and mutual support between the Filipino people and other peoples through their respective mass formations and coordinating committees. It further involves proto-diplomatic and diplomatic relations with particular governments or intergovernmental agencies.”

He concludes: “The success of the all-round international work of the NDFP will depend upon the victories of the revolutionary movement at home and the resolve, militancy and competence of NDFP personnel abroad. In advancing the Philippine revolution, the revolutionary forces and people in the Philippines play the primary role. They also need the solidarity and support of the people and progressive forces abroad.

“The people of the world need to unite and support each other against imperialism and reaction. These are their common enemies in the struggle for national liberation, democracy, social justice, development and peace.” ■

aporte de vanguardia a la Revolución Proletaria a nivel mundial.

Nuestro partido, en este largo proceso de reconstrucción, al calor de las luchas obreras y populares y en el seno de las organizaciones sindicales y sociales, ha tenido en ustedes uno de los referentes y ejemplos principales, en un período en el que luego de la derrota de la Revolución Cultural Proletaria y la restauración capitalista también en China, el proletariado internacional sufrió también una gran derrota, lo que favoreció la dispersión y el liquidacionismo en el movimiento revolucionario.

Reciban también, nuestro mayor compromiso de persistir en esta hermosa e invencible causa común, de la lucha antiimperialista en marcha al socialismo y al comunismo.

Workers Party of Bangladesh

We would like to extend our warm greetings and fraternal solidarity to you, the NDFP Central Committee and the entire membership on the occasion of the 35th founding anniversary of the NDFP. We do hope the NDFP would be able to lead and enhance the people’s popular movement against present autocratic regime in the Philippines and ensure the democratic future of the Philippines. We appreciate your resistance movement with great hope.



NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES
Celebrating 35 years
of the Filipino people's victories
in their struggle for national liberation

You are invited to celebrate with us the 35th founding anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines

Saturday, 26 April 2008
De Nassaukerk
De Wittenstraat 114
1052 BB Amsterdam

14.00 – 15.30 Exhibits and sales:
 documentary films, paintings, colored prints, t-shirts, pins and memorabilia

15.30 – 18.00 Forum with:
LUIS G. JALANDONI, NDFP Chief International Representative
Professor JOSE MARIA SISON, NDFP Chief Political Consultant
 and **KOEN HOSTIJN, COMAC Belgium**

Presentation of Special Awards of Recognition

18.00 – 19.00 Dinner

19.00 – 21.00 Cultural performances
 Songs, dances, poetry and dramatic sketches
 presented by comrades & friends
 of the NDFP in Europe

Entrance: € 3,00 | Dinner: € 7,00
 NDFP International Information Office: +31 30 2310431 | ndfp@casema.nl | www.ndfp.net
 proceeds & donations will go to the calamity fund for victims of recent natural disasters in Eastern Visayas
 and to the support fund for families of NDFP Consultants & staff who have been victims of enforced disappearances

Northstar Compass journal

The NDFP, as the revolutionary united front organization of the Filipino people fighting for national liberation and democracy, has been uniting the progressive classes and sectors of Philippine society since 1973.

Due to these efforts the influence and power of the revolutionary forces has been greatly strengthened as evidenced by the last 35 years of Philippine history. Not only was the brutal dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos overthrown by the people’s uprising in 1986, and the corrupt presidency of Joseph Estrada overthrown by a second people’s uprising in 2001, the current murderous and corrupt pseudo-presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo finds her illegitimate rule increasingly shaky due to the blows of the people’s movement.



We in the Northstar Compass (NSC) journal, as organ of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People (ICFSSP), join with the Filipino people in celebrating 35 years of the Filipino people’s victories in their struggle for national liberation. We invite our member organizations to take this opportunity to study closely this experience in revolutionary united front work.

We also call on our readers to send financial support to the NDFP campaign to help the thousands of victims of the recent floods and landslides in various parts of the Philippines, and for the campaign of the

families of NDFP consultants in the peace process who have been killed and disappeared by the US-GMA regime.

Proletari Comunisti PCm Italy

In giving you our best wishes for your works we wanted let you know that we heartily adhere to this event.

We take this occasion too, to salute once again the extraordinary struggle the people of the Philippines, guided by the Communist Party of Philippines, is carrying on against a totally corrupted regime and its US backers, against their atrocities that they try to hide speaking loud of human rights, fairness and so on; against a corrupted army capable only to attack unarmed villagers in retaliation for the defeats they suffer by the glorious New People’s Army.

The strong will of the President Arroyo and her clique to remain in power notwithstanding the bankruptcy of the army, the streets demonstrations and the popular mood, only to make as much money is possible before their fall makes a pair with the strong presence of always more US soldiers in your country.

And all this demonstrate the fact that the struggle intensifies.

Long live the struggle of people of Philippines!

Long live proletarian internationalism!

Before we went to press, the NDFP-IIO also received messages of solidarity and support from the Partido Comunista de los Pueblos de España. ■

On the occasion of the NDFP's 35th anniversary

Communists around the world reaffirm support for Philippine revolution

By NDFP International Information Office

The Netherlands-based International Information Office of the NDFP has been receiving solidarity messages from anti-imperialist and communist organizations around the world, in time for the celebration of the NDFP's 35th founding anniversary on 26 April in Amsterdam.

Following are excerpts from these messages:

Party of the Committees to Support Resistance - for Communism (CARC) – Italy

On this occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthen our ties with the struggle the Filipino popular masses have carried out for decades for freeing themselves from the oppression and exploitation of neo-colonialism and imperialism. With this struggle the Filipino popular masses resisted to the most brutish repression and to one fascist regime after the other.

So they resist today to the Arroyo regime responsible for killing hundreds of people among the progressive and revolutionary forces of the Philippines, many of them belonging to NDFP

The resistance and the victory of the popular masses of the Philippines are a patrimony of the world revolutionary movement, and are a source of strength and teaching for us.

Most of all, we learn that popular masses' struggle cannot be defeated when it is directed by parties and organizations that have a right line.

The NDFP have got two important outcomes that are important lessons for us: 1) it realized one front of so many revolutionary and progressive forces of the Philippines, of so many sectors of the popular masses, of workers, women, young people, intellectuals, professional people, and so on, and 2) it extended its action on the international level, among the many communities of Filipino workers obliged to emigrate from their country.

We wish the Filipino people that their resistance could soon get the final victory. The rebirth of the international communist movement and the crisis advancing starting from the first imperialist countries make it possible. The victory of Filipino people will be a historical event for the international communist and revolutionary movement.

Communist Party of Greece (Marxist-Leninist)

We would like to express our warmest revolutionary greetings on the occasion of the 35th founding anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the 39th founding anniversary of the New People's Army.

The peoples across the world are facing the brutal aggressive interventions of the imperialists. Wars, plunder and fascist regimes subordinated to and serving imperialism. In our region, the Balkans are in turmoil because of the recent secession of Kosovo with the blessing of US and European imperialists and the plans for NATO expansion to the East create grave dangers for the peoples.

Only the anti-imperialist, anti-war people's struggle front can ensure the future for this and the coming generations... Thus your struggle is the struggle of all people resisting and fighting against the capitalist-imperialist attack, in order to preserve gains that required long term struggles or demand their rights that occur from their position in society and production.

The crisis in the Philippines, in every aspect of political, economic and social life justifies your struggle which is the only hope for the Filipino people for justice and prosperity.

Revolutionary Organization of Labor, USA

The NDFP, under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has effectively mobilized a tremendous portion of the Filipino working class and toiling masses to the banner of national democratic revolution leading to socialism.

In a thirty-five year period in which virtually the entire socialist camp was entranced by the possibilities of rapprochement with US imperialism and rapidly disintegrated in this counter revolutionary revisionist process, the staunch and principled stand of the NDFP in opposition to imperialism, headed by US imperialism, has been exemplary. No doubt this is a key factor in the great successes the NDFP has had in winning the hearts and minds of the Filipino masses for the national democratic revolution.

As a component part of its revolutionary anti-imperialist stand, the NDFP has played a significant positive role in rallying anti-imperialists on a global scale to participate in united front efforts.



Revolutionary Communist Party of Argentina

We send militant greetings to the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in its 35th Anniversary.

We support the struggle that the popular masses of the Philippines headed by their National Democratic Front have waged for decades in order to liberate themselves of semicolonial oppression and imperialist submission. In this struggle the Philippine people has resisted the most brutal repression as they resist today against the Arroyo regime that is responsible for hundreds of murders of revolutionary militants, many of them members of the NDF.

We wish that your long lasting struggle will be crowned by definite victory and will become a guide-light that enlightens the will of liberation of all peoples and nations.

Partido Comunista Revolucionario del Uruguay

Al conmemorarse vuestro 35º aniversario, reciban un saludo revolucionario, junto a la expresión del mayor reconocimiento y admiración por vuestra lucha, que por todos los medios y con los mayores sacrificios y heroísmo, llevan adelante al frente del pueblo filipino por su Liberación Nacional, lucha que significa también un

Messages, page 4, col 1 ...



Jack Hynes interviewing Raymundo Jarque in central Philippines. A former brigadier general in the reactionary army, Jarque defected to the New People's Army in 1995 and served as an NDFP consultant in peace negotiations with the Manila government. file photo.

... Friends, page 8, col 3

colleagues in the religious community broke the encirclement imposed by the dictatorship to isolate the revolutionary movement.

Because foreign missionary priests could cross military checkpoints, Pat was among those who brought much-needed firearms donated by sympathizers and opponents of the dictatorship. These were essential in the early days, providing the weapons needed by the people's army to protect the people's organizations, fledgling guerrilla zones and people's community projects such as health and literacy from attacks of the Marcos military.

Together with Jack Hynes, Pat founded the "Frogmen", a group of foreign missionaries in the Philippines which rendered important service to the revolutionary movement during its early years. The "Frogmen" were willing to undertake the most sensitive and risky tasks.

Besides organizing among the foreign missionaries, they provided safe haven, transport, safe meeting places, food and other supplies, and financial support. In short they gave whatever they could in terms of political, moral and material support to the revolutionary movement at a time when these were most needed. They therefore helped to effectively save the lives of cadres and members of the revolutionary movement, protect the communities from identification and attacks by the military and provide means for effective communication and transport.

After Pat returned to Ireland, his love for the Filipino people remained. He would welcome Filipino comrades and friends who came to visit him and drink a toast to the Philippine revolution.

**A Christian for national liberation:
Jack Hynes+**

Coming to the Philippines as a missionary, he became close to the fisherfolk and peasant settlers, joined them in their daily work and lives, studied and learned well their language, and firmly supported their just struggles for land and justice. He fearlessly faced their oppressors, standing by their side in risky confrontations.

After the dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972, the struggles of the peasant settlers, fisherfolk and sugar workers intensified in the face of escalating oppression and exploitation. Jack stood by them. He used all his knowledge and skills, drawing from the rich source of his peasant origin, to support the armed revolutionary movement in Negros in its early years.

He transported New People's Army cadres and fighters through enemy checkpoints so they could safely reach the first guerrilla zones in Negros Island. On one such mission, he and a fellow Irish priest were bringing several NPA fighters to the south of the island when they suddenly spotted a military checkpoint on the road. Jack told his colleague who was driving to continue past the checkpoint and stop about 30 meters after.

Walking back towards the checkpoint, he made a show of scolding his colleague for driving too fast. The soldiers never got to see the NPA fighters at the back of the jeep.

A few years later, Prof. Jose Maria Sison, the most wanted man in the dictatorship's "order of battle", had to be safely withdrawn from a military dragnet after the arrest of NPA chief Bernabe Buscayno. Jack was assigned to do the risky task. He traveled more than two hours into the province and picked up Prof. and Mrs. Sison. On the way back, under heavy rain, their car was bumped by a bus. While another comrade shouted to Jack to drive away and escape, Jack calmly drove the car some 30 meters past. He then stopped and walked out. He argued with the bus driver but soon gave a few hundred pesos. No one saw the most wanted man in the car.

Soon after that, Jack gave cover for Prof. Sison for several months, acting as a foreign pastor writing a book, and Prof. Sison and his group were his staff. This gave time for the storm to blow over.

Jack was also a good motivator and organizer. He drew his colleagues and other friends, through painstaking integration and work, to become supporters or participants in the revolutionary struggle. He was one of the founders of the "Frogmen", the national

democratic group of foreign religious, which undertook various tasks, even risky ones, for the revolutionary movement.

Back in Ireland since 1977, Jack was a pillar in organizing the pickets at the US embassy for more than a year to protest the disappearance of Fr. Rudy Romano in 1985. He engaged in numerous solidarity actions for the Filipino people. Through all those years in Ireland, he was a good father and guide to his and wife Lulu's family. He also joined Lulu in becoming a fine people's healer.

Among his various gifts was being a great storyteller. Jack would recount his experiences with the people in such concrete terms that his listeners would justifiably be drawn to admire the Filipino people. He would thus win more friends for the struggle. He was a big, powerful, humble man, and a great and dear friend.

When he became seriously ill, he and his wife Lulu went back to the Philippines in December 2005. He said, "I want to go back to the Philippines, where I spent the best years of my life!"

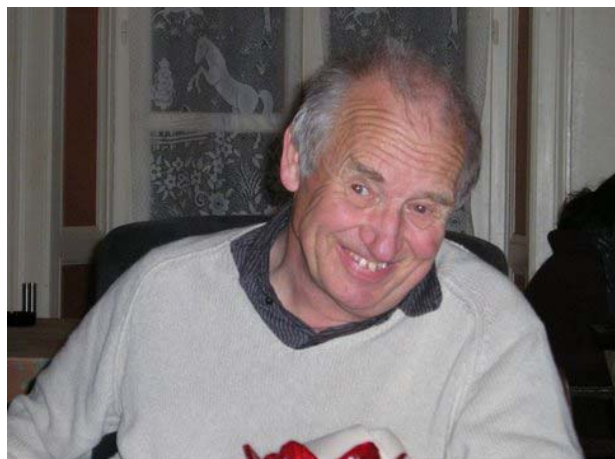
**Walking the path of solidarity:
Gerard Raemaekers +**

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 to work in 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.

Friends, next page ...

Gerard Raemaekers of the Netherlands loved and served the Filipino people, but he also supported the just cause of other oppressed peoples around the world. file photo.



... Friends, previous page

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 could only move around in a wheelchair.

After his tragic illness and his recovery, Gerard continued to support the Filipino people's cause. He was a familiar face at public meetings, demonstrations, and other activities supporting the struggles of the Filipino people, whether in Amsterdam, Utrecht, The Hague and other Dutch cities.

He was one of the founders of a Philippine solidarity organization in the Dutch city of Tilburg and had remained an active member for many years. For years he transmitted financial contributions to the Filipino revolutionary movement. He also 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.

Lawyer of the NDFP: Bernard Tomlow

Despite his tight and heavy schedule as the head of a well-known Dutch legal firm, he found time to visit the Philippines twice. First in 1988, to get himself acquainted with the situation and people's struggle. In 2002 he went back with his friend, television journalist Kor Al and made a documentary film entitled "Terrorism or Arbitrariness". The film was shown on mainstream Dutch television to effectively counter the malicious propaganda against the liberation movement and Prof. Jose Maria Sison, the NDFP Chief Political Consultant.

Lawyer Bernard Tomlow, founder of a highly sought-after law firm in the Netherlands has rendered priceless legal services and sound advice for the NDFP and its personnel in the last 25 years. Photo from Mr. Tomlow.

He has rendered prompt and effective legal services: defending the NDFP Negotiating Panel, Consultants, Staff and Volunteers after the Dutch police raids in August last year. He functions as lawyer of the NDFP Negotiating Panel in its intervention in the European Court of First Instance in Luxembourg in defense of Prof. Sison.

He has provided legal support for Prof. Sison's 20-year-old asylum case, defending him against the false charge of "terrorism" and the Dutch authorities' false murder charge.

He was one of the prosecutors in the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal Second Session on the Philippines in March 2007.

He takes up many legal cases for the Foundation of the NDFP International Information Office. He speaks up in informative meetings and solidarity campaigns regarding major Philippine issues and also issues involving Filipinos in The Netherlands.

He gave practical advice and contacted his media friends in the case of the CIA and

... Exposure trip, page 3, col 3

situation and our situation. The Philippines has a semifeudal and semicolonial mode of production, while in Belgium the capitalist mode of production has entered its highest stage, the stage of imperialism. The Filipino people are waging a national-democratic struggle with a socialist perspective, while in Belgium we are waging a struggle for socialism. In the Philippines, the state uses fascist methods, like extrajudicial killings, to suppress all forms of dissent, while in Belgium we mainly face repression through the class-based justice system.

Looking more closely, however, we see a lot of similarities between the struggle in the Philippines and the struggle we wage in Western Europe. For example, students from both the Philippines and Europe are fighting against the commercialization of education and tuition increases. Prices in Europe are also rising much faster than the average incomes. Large mobilizations are also being held in Europe to protest against US imperialism and its wars of aggression. And just like in the Philippines, we and our progressive leaders in Western Europe are also subjected to prosecution for standing up and fighting for their ideals.



BVD approaching a Filipino refugee. He also offered his office as venue for the week-long legal deposition of Prof. Sison and Juliet de Lima-Sison in the human rights litigation against the dictator Marcos.

As the Philippine revolutionary movement continues to advance and reap successes, the Filipino people can rely on an endless stream of friends and comrades of different nationalities around the world. Long live the friends of the Filipino people! ■

One important lesson we learned from our visit to the Philippines was the importance of international solidarity. It was this realization that Comac members played an active role in the campaign to free Professor Jose Maria Sison when he was arrested in the Netherlands in August last year.

Finally, another profound effect of our exposure trip to the Philippines was the strengthening of our personal commitment to the revolution. Reporting back for work after the trip, we have all taken more tasks and responsibilities, both within Comac and the Workers' Party of Belgium. Our increased love for the Filipino masses has also increased our love for the masses in our own country. We have all learned that the only to advance the cause of the masses is to push for social justice, liberation and socialism.

The people united, will never be defeated! And in Filipino, we shout: "*Ang tao, ang bayan, ngayon ay lumalaban!*" ■

(The foregoing was based on the speech delivered by the author during the 35th anniversary celebration of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on April 26, 2008, in Amsterdam.)

NDFP salutes the friends of the Filipino people

by Jose Emilio Jacinto III

When the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) celebrates 35 glorious years since its founding, it will pay tribute to countless martyrs of the Philippine revolution – those who have dedicated and offered their lives in the service of the Filipino people and the revolution. In particular, the NDF International Information Office in the Netherlands will salute not only Filipino martyrs, but also non-Filipino nationals who have become "friends, supporters, partners and comrades of the NDFP, the Filipino people, and the revolutionary struggle".

Their contributions to the Filipino people's revolutionary struggle to achieve genuine national and social liberation, and their examples of selflessness follow the traditions of those who had transcended their own nationality and identified with the struggle, aspirations and ideals of oppressed peoples: Sr. Nanette Berentsen (Netherlands, 1983), Janet Bruin (USA, 1996), Charles Foubert (Belgium, 1985), Juliet Nolthuis (Netherlands, 1988), Fr. Brendan O-Connell (Ireland, 1996), Fr. Crispin Offermans (Netherlands, 1991), Anke Reese (Germany, 1987), Narendra Singh (India, 1999), Hilde Vanobberghen (Belgium, 1995), Jannie Visser (Netherlands, 1998), and Fr. Simon Westendorp (Netherlands, 1983), to name only a few, were the flesh and blood proof of the warm and boundless support that the NDFP and the Philippine revolution continue to harvest from overseas.

Among those the NDFP will honor this year are two Dutch, two Irish and two Indonesians. While the Irish awardees are given posthumous recognition, one Dutch and two Indonesians are being recognized in their lifetime.

Indonesians' lofty and noble spirit of revolutionary internationalism: Harsono and Darmini

For more than two decades, Harsono and Darmini have steadfastly participated in the activities of the NDFP International Information Office and progressive Filipino organizations in The Netherlands to uphold, defend and advance the national and democratic rights of the Filipino people and to protect and promote the rights and welfare of the overseas Filipinos, especially in The Netherlands.



Friend of the Filipino people, Darmini.

Harsono and Darmini have contributed an extraordinary amount of their efforts, time and resources in joining and supporting activities which have brought to the fore the issues concerning the oppression and exploitation of the Filipino people and their demand for national and social liberation against foreign monopoly capitalism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

Whether at a picket in front of the Philippine embassy or at the Dutch parliament, or at a demonstration in Amsterdam, Harsono and Darmini would be there, rain or shine. They would even join in pasting posters to announce a forum or demonstration. At one demonstration against the Fidel V. Ramos regime, Harsono's photo came out in the Dutch national newspapers, portraying the cigar-smoking Ramos being confronted by the Filipino people. On another occasion, they both came out in a photo in the newspapers holding a banner. Their presence and solidarity were always an inspiration to others.

They have done outstanding work in defending overseas Filipinos from persecution, especially in the case of NDFP Chief Political Consultant Professor Jose Maria Sison, who has been unjustly deprived of political asylum in The Netherlands and has been subjected to persecution through false charges trumped up by the US, Philippine and Dutch governments. They have inspired Indonesians, Filipinos, Dutch and other

people to stand up in defense of justice and human rights.

Harsono and Darmini have done exemplary work in enlightening and inspiring Filipinos to support the Indonesian people and their struggle for national liberation and democracy against the US-directed Suharto fascist dictatorship and the continuing oppressive and exploitative policies of subsequent reactionary regimes in Indonesia. They have also spread information and aroused Indonesians to support the Filipino people in their revolutionary struggle.

They shall always be honored for working arduously and fruitfully for the development of revolutionary solidarity and mutual support between the Indonesian and Filipino peoples, for the gathering of moral and political support for their struggles from the people of the world and for the advance of international solidarity among all peoples in the common struggle for greater freedom, democracy, social justice, development and world peace against imperialism and other oppressive forces.

Megaphone from an Irishman: Pat Healy +

It was to be the first big outdoor march and rally against the Marcos dictatorship. December 6, 1975, US President Gerald Ford was coming to Manila for a visit, straight from Indonesia where he and the Indonesian dictator Suharto agreed to invade East Timor.

The planning group needed a megaphone. That would usually be a simple task, except that under martial law, the one who rented it could be subject to arrest and torture. Who should volunteer but the balding Irish missionary, Pat Healy. He got a wig and went to rent a megaphone from a downtown store. Then he drove to the place of assembly and took part in the demonstration. After the big success of the march/ rally, he met a comrade in the underground, lifted him in joy, declaring the mass action was a huge success!

Such was the enthusiasm of Pat Healy for the Philippine revolution! Such was his bravery. As a missionary priest in Mindanao, at a time when Marcos imposed strict travel rules and the military set up numerous checkpoints, Pat and his

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