

Fact Finding Report on the Philippines

A report of interviews, meetings & other first-hand accounts on the situation in the Philippines

A call for worldwide condemnation of U.S. sponsored state terror in the Philippines & for international solidarity with the Filipino people

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Report issued March, 2007

The International Action Center is an anti-imperialist, anti-racist organization dedicated to fighting U.S. government policies abroad and at home.

It was founded by Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General during the first Iraq war in 1991 and has over 15 chapters in the U.S.

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**FACT FINDING REPORT
ON THE PHILIPPINES***Issued March 2007***Summary of the International Action Center's
Submission to the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal**

In the IAC report to the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal are accounts and eyewitness reports from recent delegations of U.S. activists visiting the Philippines from 2002 through 2006. The delegates visited numerous places, including Cebu City, Mindanao and Manila, the most populated city in the Philippines.

Collectively these delegations have a wealth of experience and are respected activists in their communities and nationally within the United States.

Although there are many compelling issues that face Filipinos today, one of the most pressing is the mounting numbers of politically-motivated killings and disappearances of individuals since 2001. The IAC delegations were able to verify this situation.

Historically, the U.S. has conducted both covert and overt interventions in the Philippines since the end of its "official" colonial occupation in 1946.

After 60 years of supposed political independence, the Philippines remain tied down by unequal military and economic treaties and agreements with the United States. This continued intervention is in utter disregard for the fundamental interests and will of the Filipino people for national sovereignty.

Clearly, the situation in the Philippines is grave. The IAC fact finding delegations have confirmed that an international campaign must be launched in order to 1) expose this situation to the world and 2) put an end to U.S.-backed terror in the Philippines.



**Mother of Sherlyn Cadapan
points to her missing
daughter in photo**

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Gutierrez
IAC National Co-Director

Issued March 2007

Introduction

In the following pages are accounts and eyewitness reports from recent delegations of U.S. activists visiting the Philippines from 2002 through 2006. They visited numerous places, including Cebu, Mindanao and Manila, the most populated city in the Philippines.

Collectively these delegations have a wealth of experience and are respected activists in their communities and nationally within the United States.

Although there are many compelling issues that face Filipinos today, one of the most pressing is the mounting numbers of politically-motivated killings and disappearances of individuals since 2001. Over 730 people have been killed. An alarming acceleration of disappearances—one person every two days—had occurred as of December 2006.

The victims are human-rights activists, students, workers, trade unionists, journalists, lawyers and church workers, women and men. All were individuals who have worked with or for the poor in the Philippines.

As a result of the persistence and perseverance of the progressive movement in the Philippines and the solidarity movement worldwide, U.N. Human Rights Commission Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, after several weeks of investigation, held President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the Philippine military accountable for the extra-judicial killings. His final report will be released at a later date.

In 2003, Assistant U.S. Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz announced that the Philippines was the “second front” in the U.S.-led war on terrorism. The Philippines received an economic aid package of \$4 billion, in addition to \$100 million in military aid. In return, the Philippines agreed to be a part of the so-called coalition of the willing which invaded Iraq. At the same time, the U.S. government declared several progressive organizations in the Philippines to be “terrorist organizations.”

In violation of the Philippine Constitution, the Philippine government allowed the U.S. to deploy several thousand U.S. troops and special operations forces. One result was the launching of Oplan Bantay Laya (Operation Plan Freedom Watch), which was patterned after the infamous Phoenix Program carried out by the U.S. during the Vietnam War. The essence of such programs is to target progressive individuals and organizations for assassination.

Historically, the U.S. has conducted both covert and overt interventions in the Philippines since the end of its “official” colonial occupation in 1946. In the 1950s, the U.S. played a leading role in the suppression of a peasant insurrection. The U.S. conducted a wide range of operations, including rigging an election to defeat Sen. Claro M. Recto, a Philippine nationalist. (See James Burkholder Smith, “Portrait of a Cold Warrior.”)

During the Marcos dictatorship (1972-1986), the U.S. backed one of the most brutal and repressive regimes in the world. Widespread torture and abuse, detention without trial, and political assassinations were common during this period. Although poverty and inequality was a way of life before martial law, conditions became much worse under Marcos.

Following the People’s Power Movement in 1986, which was led by progressive forces, the U.S. was forced to pull back. Some of the major military bases were abandoned, and the Philippines adopted a new Constitution which attempted to limit foreign control. However, U.S. political and economic influence in its former colony remained strong.

Since 2001, as part of its so-called war on terror, the U.S. has carried out an increasingly aggressive policy around the world in an attempt to establish world hegemony. The growing military violence in the Philippines can only be understood against this backdrop.

After 60 years of supposed political independence, the Philippines remains tied down by unequal military and economic treaties and agreements with the United States. This continued intervention is in utter disregard for the fundamental interests and will of the Filipino people for national sovereignty.

Fact-Finding Delegation, December 2006: Part I

The International Action Center, headquartered in New York City, participated in a fact-finding delegation to the Philippines from Dec. 7-19, 2006.

Teresa Gutierrez, a national co-director of the IAC, and Dianne Mathiowetz, coordinator of the Atlanta chapter and a member of the United Auto Workers union, were invited speakers at a number of conferences and gatherings taking place in Cebu City, Cotabato City and Manila. In addition to gathering information about the current political situation in the Philippines, the delegation was also investigating the impact of U.S. military intervention in the country under the guise of the “war on terror.”

The following report is based on first-hand conversations with Filipino citizens, interviews with leaders of trade unions and other popular organizations, media reports, written publications released by government commissions, human rights and labor-based institutions in the Philippines, and international bodies.

During the 12 days we were in the Philippines, newspapers carried accounts of at least seven killings of activists in various parts of the country—two human-rights lawyers, four trade-union leaders and one youth organizer.

The level of repression and violence shocked us. We learned that all sectors of society are subjected to extra-judicial killings, “disappearances,” arrest and torture, threats and intimidation for voicing and/or organizing opposition to governmental policies, business practices or the political and social status quo.

From numerous sources, but primarily from personal conversations with relatives or survivors of these human-rights violations, we learned that well over 800 leaders and members of various organizations had been killed from 2001-2006, in the first phase of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s declaration of Oplan Bantay Laya, or all-out war.

We were shown the pictures and heard about the lives of religious figures, elected officials, trade unionists, peasant leaders, women’s activists, lawyers and human-rights advocates, journalists, educators, representatives of Indigenous and Moro communities, and youth and urban poor organizers who were being killed by death squads, often wearing masks and riding motorcycles, or openly by members of the Philippine Army and National Police.

As a trade unionist from the U.S., I paid particular attention to the high level of physical violence, including murder and beatings, of labor activists. The right of workers to organize for decent wages, benefits and working conditions is fundamental to their ability to emerge from poverty and extreme exploitation.

During this visit, there were numerous exchanges with rank-and-file workers from a cross-section of industries and occupations, as well as elected union officials and KMU (May 1 Movement) leaders.

In every instance, the conversation centered on the shredding of workers’ legal protections by the Arroyo government—either by the passage of new legislation favoring employers, especially foreign corporations, or by the blatant disregard for existing labor rights laws concerning wages, working conditions, pensions, etc.

In particular, workers described the use of the police, military or company thugs to break their strikes and attack their picket lines. They testified to surveillance, threats and intimidation tactics used by bosses and governmental agencies to deter and disrupt any organizing in their workplaces, whether factories, mills, plantations or public-service centers.

One such leader, Romeo Lega, union president of Honda Philippines, described the difficulties of organizing in the specially-created economic zones--home to many international

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corporations. In 2005, he was the target of an attempted assassination and remains in fear for his safety.

We were told about the more than 76 labor activists and union leaders murdered on picket lines, in front of their workplaces, at their homes or on the street in the first five years of the Arroyo presidency. These killings remain unsolved, with no charges or convictions brought by law enforcement agencies or the judiciary.

While in Manila on Dec. 18, the IAC delegates met for more than two hours with Crispin Beltran, popularly known as KaBel. Beltran, a labor organizer since the 1950s, was the first secretary-general of the KMU in 1980.

Jailed and tortured under the Marcos dictatorship, along with scores of other KMU members, he became its chairperson following the successful People's Power Movement that ended martial law.

In May 2001, KaBel was elected to the Philippine Congress from the Anakpawis party-list.

Beltran has championed raising the minimum wage, defended the rights of overseas workers, promoted genuine land reform, opposed U.S. military operations in the Philippines and challenged the legitimacy of Arroyo's election.

During the brief 2006 "national state of emergency," declared by Arroyo when she faced intense opposition from forces across the political spectrum, the government charged KaBel with numerous offenses, including sedition. Since Feb. 25, 2006, he has been held in detention, despite court rulings ordering his release.

Due to his ill health, the 74-year-old congressperson and labor leader is hospitalized in Manila. The Arroyo government constantly threatens to remove him to a prison cell at Camp Crane. He is under 24-hour guard and is severely restricted in carrying out his responsibilities to his constituents.

KaBel's false arrest and detention is one of the more absurd violations of the Philippine Constitution and international human-rights standards being committed by the Arroyo government.

As a delegation from the U.S., we must report that the military and police forces implicated in this wave of repression have received over \$240 million in weapons and munitions from Washington; that U.S. troops are involved on the ground in so-called anti-insurgency missions; and that the Arroyo government is a junior partner to U.S. economic and military interests in the region.



The delegation from the United States with Filipino activists

Respectfully submitted by
Dianne Mathiowetz

Fact-Finding Delegation, December 2006: Part II

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The IAC fact-finding delegation from December 7-19, 2006, revealed through personal interviews, news accounts, and public events a dire and difficult situation for the people of the Philippines.

During our trip, every day we were in the country, the mainstream press reported that an activist, a student, or labor leader had been killed or was missing. As anti-war and social-justice activists from the United States, we found conditions in the Philippines so serious that exposing this situation in the U.S. and especially emphasizing the role of U.S. imperialism in the Philippines are of the utmost priority.

One of the first actions we participated in was in Cebu City. On Dec. 10, we took part in the demonstration commemorating International Human Rights Day.

International delegates experienced firsthand the tense situation for Filipino activists as gun-toting, SWAT-attired Filipino police met the demonstrators in the streets, refusing passage.

I was honored to have the opportunity to say a few words at the demonstration. It is important to the IAC that Filipinos know that there are people in the U.S. in solidarity with their struggle and in opposition to U.S. policy in the Philippines.

After I spoke, a journalist from the *Inquirer*, the main daily newspaper in the country, called to interview me. She informed me that I may never be able to return to the Philippines given that I had condemned the killings in the country. It was a firsthand example of the intimidation tactics being used by the Arroyo/Bush administration.

In fact, a lawyer from the U.S. who was also scheduled to arrive around the same time as our delegation was denied entry into the Philippines because of his support of Filipino labor activists. (*See Appendix I*)

We asked to travel to Mindanao as part of our trip and were able to spend some time in Davao and Cotabato City. Here we interviewed several Filipinos who provided compelling and stirring accounts of the difficult climate.

This was important to hear because of the priority the U.S. military is giving to this region.

In fact, journalist Eliza Griswold, a Harvard fellow, writes in "Waging Peace in the Philippines: With Innovative Tactics, U.S. Forces Make Headway in the 'War on Terror'" on the escalating military role in Mindanao.

She documents that "today, a crucial but little known battle in the expanding war on terror is underway" in Mindanao.

The U.S. military is building roads, providing dental and medical care, and digging wells, all in an attempt to carry out a psychological war of pacification very much like the U.S. war in Vietnam.

It is by no means a benevolent campaign. Never in the history of U.S. imperialism has this government carried out a foreign or domestic policy in favor of oppressed people. On the contrary, it is inherent to the nature of imperialism to launch wars of terror, blockades, genocide and extreme economic policies on behalf of the multinational corporations. The people of Iraq, Cuba, Iran and Palestine are just a few examples of those who've suffered this reign of terror.

The Philippines is no exception.

Mindanao is primarily a Muslim area. Since September 11, 2001, the U.S. government has launched a war of terror, particularly on Muslim people, in the U.S. and around the world. It is no coincidence that Mindanao is top of the Pentagon's list.

Similar to Iraq, organizations or individuals that resist colonial domination are labeled "terrorists," justifying U.S. military intervention. In the case of the Philippines, it is the New People's Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that are used as the excuse for the remilitarization of the Philippines.

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Upon arrival in Davao, human-rights activists, church leaders and elected officials went out of their way to meet with us at a moment's notice. They took us on a tour of a bus terminal that had been bombed a year before. We met with family members who had lost loved ones in this U.S.-backed war of terror against the people of the Philippines. A family of an elected member of Congress generously took us to dinner his wife quietly recounted the pain of the constant threat that her husband could be assassinated as a result of his human-rights work.

At an impromptu meeting in Cotabato City, about 10 local residents explained their plight to us. One woman, very young and shy, told us about her arrest just a few weeks before, where she was accused of being a member of the New Peoples Army. She was held for two weeks, physically abused and held incommunicado. The arrest helped her to decide to fight for justice.

Representatives of a women's organization explained to us conditions for women, and how fighting against poverty had become a crime. A cultural youth group sang mournful songs about the fight for freedom from economic deprivation.

We were told of the recent assassination of four people in North Cotabato by a local mayor with no provocation whatsoever. Five others were injured in that single incident.

Later in the day, some of the members of this delegation took us on a walking tour of the city. They pointed out signs exemplifying the psychological warfare being carried out by the Arroyo administration. The signs read that the NPA was a terrorist organization and accused the NPA of killing youth.

A young gay man called Frankie showed us a "wanted poster" where he was the number-one person on the list being targeted by the government. This "wanted poster" was an example of the tremendous courage it took to not only meet with our delegation but to carry out progressive and humanitarian work.

A human rights summit occurred while we were there. It was organized by some of the people we had met the previous day, many of them youth. Religious leaders representing Muslim, Christian and Indigenous faiths, human-rights activists, elected officials and others spoke at this event documenting the human-rights violations in the area.

A banner and a photo exhibit documented the deaths and the torture of many people from the region. The exhibits and photos were chilling and should be shown to the world. (See photo at right)

In Manila, on our last day in the country, we met the mother of Sherlyn Cadapan. (See photo on page 2) Sherlyn is a student and member of the Alliance of Peasants in Bulacan province. She has been missing since June 2006. Her mother told us she simply wants to know where her daughter is.



A photo exhibit documented the deaths and the torture of many people from the region

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Gutierrez,
IAC National Co-Director

To Iraq: Filipino women in the shadows of war

Today, the world is swept with a three-letter word W-A-R , described by a writer “as a crocodile with dishonest eyes and a thrashing tail. It creeps upon us quietly while you wash at the river, while you pound your corn, while you rock your old mother in time of dying. War wants death always; war wants your sorrow.”

How do we understand so vast a phenomenon that is sweeping countless lives away that constitute it?

There is an image of war that has stuck in my mind... which seems to point toward some deep understanding, something that's visible to the naked eye, but deleted from formal narratives and “official accounts.” It's not just about war, but something that tugs at the heart of what it means to be a human (woman). And in the curious combination that links disaster with profoundly common, this image, as captured in a story ran by Philippine independent media website Bulatlat.com, involves a long line of women stretched down the bloc in Manila, Philippines, all queued up for whatever job they could get in war-torn Iraq. They run the gamut of all backgrounds, but virtually all seemed to share the same expression: a powerful combination of fear, exhaustion, and pain, yet they are willing to take the risks in Iraq, even to die.

Looking pale and tired, Phoebe Baga, 42, seemed to badly need some rest in the humid afternoon of July 28. She tried to fight her sleepiness by alternately standing and sitting, waiting to be called by the Anglo-European Services, Inc., the agency responsible for hiring or recruiting Filipino women to render auxiliary services to U.S. military stationed in Iraq.

Anglo-European Services is the local agent of Prime Projects International (PPI), a subcontractor of the Kelly Brown and Root (KBR), a subsidiary of the Halliburton Company. Phoebe said the agency receives about 1,500 to 2,000 applicants everyday. She said that applications are coursed through an agency of the local government, the Public Service Employment Organization (PESO), which serves as the local government agents for recruitment agencies.

As of July 2004, more than 1,000 Filipino women have been sent to Camp Anaconda, north of Baghdad to serve as janitresses and laundrywomen for the U.S. military.

Phoebe had been waiting in line for the last three days and had not come since to her hometown in Pampanga, where the former U.S. Clark Air Base was located. She left her six children to the care of her husband , Danilo, a farmer.

“My husband's earnings are not enough to send our children to school. Her children is graduating from college while the second is a college freshman. The other three are in high school and the youngest in the second grade.

Phoebe filed her application for a job in Iraq last March, but was only interviewed on July 13. “The hiring of women became urgent by July,” she said.

She is actually excited to go to Iraq, she said, as the promised pay amounts to PhP 34,000 (US\$618.20).

She is ready to take risks in Iraq, she said even to die. “If I die in Iraq, my family would receive some money. If I die here, I probably wouldn't even have money to buy a coffin.”

On the other hand, Corazon, who also hails from Mexico, Pampanga and is a mother of eight, said she has been going back and forth from her province to the recruitment agency in Makati since January.

She needs the job in Iraq badly because some of her children have already stopped studying. Her husband is a contractual worker wherever he could get a job- in factories or construction projects. His daily salary of PhP180 (\$3.27) falls short of the family needs.

Corazon said she borrowed money from private lenders for transportation and food in following up her application- a fact that makes her regretful. “Instead of spending the money I borrowed for food for my children, I have had to use to it for transportation,” she said. She has

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not gone home for five days. "Transport fare would just go to waste, she said.

Like most of the applicants, Phoebe and Corazon sleep on the sidewalk during the times that they decided not to go home. When it rains, they slept in nearby houses for a fee. They pay PhP30 (\$0.54) for a night, another PhP10 (\$0.18) for using the bathroom and PhP2-5(\$0.03-.09) for using the toilet.

They eat at nearby sidewalk food stalls whose prices are considerably lower than in restaurants or even fast-food chains. They can even buy half an order of a dish, costing them only PhP15 (\$0.27), while rice is only PhP5 (0.09).

"We have to save money for the next day," Corazon said.

Located in Makati, the Philippines' financial district, the Anglo-European agency's women applicants were mostly in their '40s. It is the agency's age requirement, they said.

This is the age that is less prone to sexual harassment, as well as when the women have become proficient in household chores

At this point in their lives and with the economic crisis, they are ready to take the risk of dying in Iraq for their families' survival.

For these women standing on that thin line of survival between living and becoming casualty of war, the impact of these actions is of existential proportions. But for these women, these brushes with life, death are largely invisible. They are invisible because economically, fortunes are made and lost in less than ethical ways; because politically power covers its tracks.

The story doesn't end with the women giving up their lives for jobs in U.S. military camps in Iraq. This is just ground zero of the front-line intersections of war and invisible economies that ultimately extend worldwide.

A government inspired trade of female labor in war-torn Iraq and elsewhere, in partnership with international state-sponsored vendors, brings in billions of dollars a year. Systems of partnership, outright exaction mark these transactions, from the poor woman who gives up her only money to the government all the way to the vast global flows of resources for hard currency.

The Philippine government rakes in about US\$8 billion a year from remittances, which is the saving-grace of the cash strapped Philippine economy. Aside from remittances, the government also demands processing fees which include the following: NBI (National Bureau of Investigation) clearance, passport, POEA (Philippine Overseas Employment Agency), welfare fund contribution, pre-departure orientation seminar, birth certificate, medical and dental certificates. Other includes travel tax and terminal fees.

Government exaction schemes are also extended even during employment abroad: visa fee, passport renewal, and authentication fee.

In 2005 alone, the government earned at least PhP13 billion from applicants for overseas work, according to official reports by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

Aside from these state exactions, the private recruiting agency also demands placement fees from contract workers ranging from PhP18,000 (US\$360) to PhP75,000 (US\$1500). Linked to international network, and the state system in running its industries, this "non-state" agency- is fundamental in recruiting and moving women labor to Iraq.

It must be kept in mind that it takes three to four months for an overseas Filipino women worker to process her deployment papers. And it takes six months of her stint abroad before the money spent on placement fees gets paid.

In the midst of vast political systems in which war scar human landscapes and mold global economies, women like Phoebe and Corazon are willing to discard their lives in exchange for their families' survival. This, in total, is the body of war and the hope for peace. This, despite the actual risky experience of their fellow province mates in Iraq as reported by Bulatlat.com last July 2004, to wit:



As of July 2004, more than 1,000 Filipino women have been sent to Camp Anaconda, north of Baghdad to serve as janitresses and laundrywomen for the U.S. military.

*Issued March 2007***To Iraq: Filipino women in the shadows of war** *(Continued)*

Last May 19, Leopoldo Soliman, a Filipino worker returned to the Philippines from Iraq after he was wounded when a mortar hit their cabin on May 11.

Soliman left for Iraq with a dream of providing a better future for his family. He was part of the second batch of overseas Filipino workers sent to Iraq on December 2, 2003.

After stepping out of the airplane, they heard loud explosions “it was like a New Year. We were welcomed with fireworks,” he said.

The warm welcome was portentous. After two days of orientation including military policies, he and his compatriots plunged themselves into work at Camp Anaconda. Since then, a week would not pass without a gun battle between the Iraqi militants and the U.S. troops, he said.

“Bunker! Bunker!” the camp supervisor would yell. A loud siren would signal that everyone should leave their cabins and dash to the bunker, a 40-foot container padded with sand bags at its sides and top.

“We would stay inside the bunker,” he said, and “would stay there until the ground commander says, “amber,” or “clear.”

Sometimes, he said, a loud explosion would jolt them out of their sleep in the wee hours of the morning mostly around 1 a.m. The firefight would last until about 3 a.m. and it is only then that they could go back to bed.

But they had to wake up two hours later to prepare for work. “We always lacked sleep.”

For the last five months that he worked in the U.S. military camp in Iraq, Soliman served as food keeper. He was assigned to issue food they called MRE or Meal Ready to Eat, a high-protein meal that could last for as long as three years without getting spoiled. He was also in-charge of assigning a tent to each soldier.

But Soliman and some 1,400 of his co-workers did not mind the risk. They were receiving US \$615 a month equivalent to PhP34,000.. Somebody like me who never finished college would not find a job in the Philippines that will give me this much salary.

The unarmed personnel at the camp were provided with bullet-proof vests and boots for protection. They lived in a barracks where 80 percent of the workers are Filipinos.

Around 7 p.m. of May 11, a mortar shell exploded near their barracks. Soliman, together with two co-workers, was in his cabin watching videos sent by his family from the Philippines.

When a second mortar shell exploded, Soliman went to look for Raymund Natividad, his roommate who took a breather at the terrace. Soliman saw his co-workers in panic, running toward the bunker. When he tried to call Raymund, another mortar exploded. It was too late. The mortar hit their cabin, killing Raymund on the spot while Soliman got hit on his left thigh.

Soliman went home on May 19, but he is slighted by the fact that he has not received a single cent of financial support from the government.

Soliman still limps but said he is ready to take the risk once more as a U.S. military camp aide in Iraq. As he was injured at work, he is considered by the Anglo European Services on “emergency leave” and will be rehired as soon as he completely recovers.

Despite Soliman’s actual experience, the Anglo-European Services, with the government as its partner, is continuously recruiting Filipino women workers to Iraq. About 300 more are expected to be hired in August or September and sent to Iraq.

What relationships hold between the trade of labor during war and the massive profits business corporations and its kingpins ultimately make from the ashes of political violence?

How do we understand, not abstract text-bound definition of war-making, but what it lives like, tastes, feels, looks and moves like? What place do we give to the profound good that beats in the hearts of so many unknown or remain in the silhouette of war that “conventional wis-

To Iraq: Filipino women in the shadows of war *(Continued)*

dom” tells us are composed with brutes? Or, perhaps, “why would human engage in the most profoundly unpleasant activities imaginable- one capable of extinguishing human themselves?”

These questions prompted further questions. What happens to women (and men) treating not only war wounds but also their societies bleeding from assaults on their core values? How do they live their lives? Who are the brokers of war? Of peace?

To cite what Nordstrom (2001) wrote:

“War is defined both by local realities and histories and by internationally forged norms of militarization: a large and well-developed set of networks stretch cross the globe and into the most remote battlefield localities to provide everything required by militaries, from weapons to training manuals, food, medicines, tools, state-of-the art computers, and not to forget, women.”

The author also said, “if war is a powerfully shaped by intersection of individual acts, national histories, and transnational cultures of militarization and economic gain, so too are the more profound questions that attach to the studies of War: What is power? Resolution? Peace?”

There is a saying that the realm of the shadow is a realm of possibility and danger, where great fortunes are also possible. But it is also where the average person turns for survival in an unsure world. It is this very irony - the fact that non-state system such as Anglo European Services provide not only dangerous wildcatting of resources, but also offer a means of development to people with few alternate means of livelihood.

Shadow, as defined by Nordstrom, refers to the “complex sets of cross-state economic and political linkages to move outside formally recognized state-based channels. The network is international: they blur the distinction between discrete nation-states and recognized political and national borders.”

The non-state actor who fronts women to work in Iraq is a prime example of a lynchpin in the intersection of shadow transactions, business development, and political power. The agency is linked to international networks that produce the resources that convert to the hard currency; and it is linked with the state system in running its industries.

Studies revealed non-state transactions extend across war and peace, and across all the world’s countries. They become embedded in the everyday functioning of the country’s governing institutions. The finances and power wielded by these networks challenge academics to rethink sovereignty and the loci of power.

There is a tendency among analysts and policymakers, as well as in popular culture, to view United Nations and other international alliances as the only real power brokers determining political trends and economic realities. But as Nordstrom points out, “the shadows of today have overshadowed this international body of governments rallying for peace among nations.”

Emelyn Tapaoan
International Solidarity Mission 2005

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Issued March 2007

Report of Visit to Camp Bagong Diwa Jail

The Moro communities in Mindanao have a long history of fighting against invaders of the Southern Philippines—from the Spanish, who colonized the northern part of the country several hundred years ago, to the puppet Philippine governments of today and its sponsor, U.S. imperialism.

Their heroic resistance and struggle for self-determination has led to a war of genocide by the armed forces of the Philippines, in collusion with U.S. Special Forces. This has resulted in the displacement of thousands of Bansa Moro people from Mindanao. The prisoners who were brought to this prison over a thousand miles away by the military are a small number compared to the thousands who were forced to leave their homeland in order to survive, much like the Palestinians.

The International Solidarity Mission-Sulu team had planned to visit Moro prisoners incarcerated at Camp Bagong Diwa in Biicutan, Taguig, on Aug. 16, 2005. A lawyer for the detainees accompanied us there. We arrived at 8:30 a.m. and were informed that the warden was out. The officer in charge told us he would contact the warden.

At 11 a.m. the officer told us the warden would return at noon. Then we were told we needed to make a formal request for the visit. Later we were informed that we needed to get a permit from the prisons bureau in Quezon City. We stayed till 2:30 p.m. in the afternoon. We knew we had been given the runaround to keep us out.

While we waited a few Filipinos from the Moro Christian People's Alliance were able to enter the jail and distribute some soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, candy and biscuits that the delegates prepared for the Moro detainees. Sardines and mami noodles, the only nourishing items, were stopped by the guards as prohibited.

During the day, some of the delegates were able to interview prison visitors and hear their stories. Since all of the detainees came from Sulu and Basilan--a thousand miles away--very few relatives were able to come and see their loved ones.

On our second attempt we were able to go to the jail with the necessary papers, thanks to the diligent work of the ISM leadership. Even then the jailers refused to let us in until after 2 p.m. This left us with less than an hour for the visit.

The security check that delegates endured was humiliating, especially for people of color in the group. White delegates were asked to pick up their shirts, loosen their belts and drop their trousers--but they were not required to lower their underwear, as the people of color were. One woman of color commented, "As I stood there with my trousers around my knees and my panties at my thighs, I was horrified to think of the visiting families enduring this on a regular basis. But even more, I couldn't help but feel it was more about humiliation and robbing the families of their dignity, since the ankle area of my pants was never checked."

As we entered the prison area, we were struck by the fact there were two sets of cells. One was where the prisoners were held. The second was a cell where visitors were locked in for the duration of their visit. Since we were not family members, we were kept in a large open area where no one could touch or pass anything to the prisoners.

Before reporting on the conditions we observed, it is necessary to review what happened on March 16, 2005. On that day, in what is called the Padiwan Massacre, 27 detainees were killed following a prisoner rebellion. After a 27-hour-long negotiation bogged down, the military and police started firing indiscriminately. Some 129 detainees involved in the uprising were alleged to be members of the Abu Sayyaf Islamic rebel group; 73 of the inmates had been illegally arrested following a military crackdown in Basilan in 2001. Eleven of those murdered were from the Basilan.

*Issued March 2007***Report of Visit to Camp Bagong Diwa Jail** *(Continued)*

Before the Padiwan Massacre, the prisoners resided two to a cell with bunk beds. They had control of the lighting in the cells. They were able to prepare meals in the cells and were allowed out in a common area to pray and talk with each other. They also had access to a courtyard. In addition, conjugal visits were allowed.

After the massacre, the compound was reduced to 130 men. All were moved to the first floor, where there were just 20 cells. There were six men in each 10-foot-by-12-foot cell. They slept on mats on a concrete floor with no bedding or pillows. There was barely space for the mats.

The prisoners were never let out of the cell for prayers or exercise. They had no cooking facilities and no clean drinking water. Their visitors had to enter a locked cell. Electricity was on from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. They were fed twice a day.

According to the detainees, the food is rotten. Many were being treated for diarrhea. I saw a guard throw pills in the cells. I was reminded of a zoo where animals have their food thrown between the bars. If the prisoners wanted clean drinking water, they had to pay the guards for it, or their families had to haul water to the jail.

Twelve ISM delegates went to the jail, so we spread out and visited all the cells. The delegates were able to talk to most of the men in English or Tagalog.

Only two of the cells held “convicted” inmates. Most of the men were still waiting for trial dates to be set or for their cases to continue. They told us that minors were housed with adults, a clear violation of international laws on the rights of children.

I was with a delegate who spoke two of the Moro languages and was able to translate for the prisoners. In the cells we visited, all the men stated they had been tortured with electrical shock to various parts of their bodies. Some were beaten, others were submerged in water. All had been tortured before they were brought to the jail.

When asked why they were detained, they initially answered that it was because they were Moro/Muslims from Sulu and Basilan. They also told us that the army rounded them up because they were getting reward money for each person they detained and claimed was an Abu Sanyaf member.

We were able to talk with three members of the same family who were arrested separately but brought to Manila together. All three had been tortured. The youngest was 14 years old when he was arrested, the second was in his twenties, and the third was in his thirties. Two were in the same cell, the other a couple of cells away. The eldest had diabetes. He was never taken to the hospital until he lost his sight. He was treated at the hospital but not after he was returned to the jail. Diabetes that is untreated can lead to life-threatening changes that result in an early death.

As a health-care worker, I noticed the men were emaciated and very pale. Some also had common signs of liver disease.

The inmates we spoke to wanted people to know they were framed. They wanted speedy trials and the right to return to their homes. We left the prison prepared to get out the word about these inhuman conditions.

The material in this report is a compilation of information gathered by several of the delegates.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Eolis, delegate

Issued March 2007

International Solidarity Mission 2002

Report of Visit to Basilan

In August 2002, delegates from Belgium, Canada, the U.S., Korea, and Taiwan participated in the International Solidarity Mission. The job of the ISM was to investigate the state of human rights in the Philippines in the context of Washington's so-called war on terror, the re-introduction of U.S. troops in that country, and the rising level of cooperation between the Bush administration and the government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The ISM found evidence and heard testimony that pointed toward a growing government terror campaign that coincided with the U.S. troops' arrival in the communities of the south, where its investigation focused.

At the time, a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was imminent, U.S. troops were just winding up the first in a series of joint military exercises with the Armed Forces of the Philippines called Balikatan, and there was talk of an agreement being signed between the two governments that would defy the Philippine Constitution by codifying a new U.S. military presence that had, in fact, already begun.

Washington justified its "basing" in the Philippines by saying that the Abu Sayyaf Group had to be defeated. But many pointed to Washington's yearning to do away with the more popular people's struggles—the New People's Army and the Moro National Liberation Front.

When the ISM assembled in Manila, organizers had already received word of an unarmed man being shot on the island of Basilan, apparently by a U.S. soldier. The morning after arriving, delegates traveled more than an hour by air to Zamboanga City in the southwestern part of Mindanao and then south another half hour by boat to Basilan. Muslim peoples who successfully resisted Spanish colonization a century ago are a large part of the population in the southern part of the Philippines. Anti-U.S.-troop sentiment is strongest there.

Team members visited the home of the shooting victim, found shell casings, saw the blood-stained blanket, and spoke with Barangay (village council) authorities and neighbors who had either heard or seen parts of the incident. Later, hospital staff also told of a U.S. soldier being present when the shooting victim arrived there.

The following day, during an open-air tribunal to gather testimony on human-rights violations, Huraida Isnijal told how the U.S. soldier took part in a raid on her home and shot her husband. She still bore bruises and a cut on her face from her encounter with the armed men.

Other villagers from a broad geographical area gave their accounts of a general escalation of government terror in their communities including arrests, beatings and murders.

One woman said that her family had been walking on a beach when AFP soldiers approached them, told the women to leave, and took her husband and 11-year-old son away. The next morning their bodies were discovered.



*Issued March 2007***Report of Visit to Basilan** *(Continued)*

People testified repeatedly at the tribunal of soldiers demanding that their young men admit to being specific Abu Sayyaf Group figures. Invariably, the men had never heard these names before, and were usually beaten and arrested for refusing to “confess.”

After being jailed, many prisoners had been tortured and beaten for up to three days.

The ISM visited the Basilan Provincial Jail, and found 131 prisoners in a tiny two-room dwelling with no beds. Before the U.S. troops arrived, the jail rarely housed more than a dozen prisoners. Some reported having been there for five months without any contact with a lawyer.

The ISM also found that the right to demonstrate had been suppressed. A caravan of 900 people that was organized to protest the Balikatan exercises, and had traveled for days to arrive at Zamboanga City, was attacked, roads were blocked with heavy equipment, windows of their bus were smashed and some participants sustained injuries.

The caravan persisted and made its way to Zamboang, where attempts to carry out the culminating activity, which was legally permitted, and whose participants included Congresspeople Liza Maza and Satur Ocampo, were hindered. Only a stationery rally was ultimately allowed, even though both elected congressional representatives attempted to assert the legal right of the protesters.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Scheffer, delegate

Conclusion

Clearly, the situation in the Philippines is grave. The IAC fact finding delegations have confirmed that an international campaign must be launched in order to 1) expose this situation to the world and 2) put an end to U.S.-backed terror in the Philippines.

The Philippines exports about 3,000 workers a day as the policies imposed by the government benefit the multinational corporations and not its people. Behind this reign of economic and political terror is U.S. imperialism.

As U.S. activists we remain committed to exposing the role of the U.S. government in the Philippines and organizing to end imperialist intervention in that country. Given the unique and decisive role the U.S. plays in the Philippines and around the world, the role of activists is pivotal to ending war and dire social conditions abroad as well as at home.

APPENDIX I:

Human rights lawyer deported from the Philippines

Philippines government maintains blacklist of human rights supporters

Washington, DC: Brian Campbell, Staff Attorney for the International Labor Rights Fund (ILRF) was detained at an airport in Manila on December 6, 2006 and denied access to the country because of his support for Filipino human rights activists.

After presenting his passport to airport officials upon arrival in the Philippines, Campbell was questioned about his past trips to the country on fact-finding missions. Campbell had traveled to the Philippines in April on an International Solidarity Mission sponsored by the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights and the Ecumenical Institute of Labor Education and Research where he met with several families of victims of political killings including Mrs. Luz Fortuna, the wife of Diosdado “Ka Fort” Fortuna, a murdered union organizer.

A security officer showed Campbell a list of names of international human rights advocates who would not be allowed into the country. Also on the list were members of the National Lawyers Guild who had recently published an article about the Philippines as well as a number of priests. The existence of the blacklist has been confirmed by Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez in an Associated Press article published on December 7th.

Campbell was traveling to the Philippines at the invitation of several Filipino human rights organizations to gather further information about the situation in the Philippines. As Campbell said, “You can rest assure that I am being denied entry into the Philippines as just another small part of the government’s concerted long-standing campaign to silence the critics of the Arroyo regime and the continuing political killings.”

The Philippines remains one of the most dangerous countries for unionized workers and human rights activists. >From the Chong Won garment factory where workers have been on strike after management violated their rights to freedom of association, denied workers bathroom breaks and forced workers to

take on 24 hour shifts, to the murder of Bishop Alberto Ramento of the Philippines Independent Church, a supporter of striking workers in the Cavite Economic Zone, the government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has grown increasingly repressive over the past few years. Arroyo has been supported by the Bush Administration and the US government announced just last month intentions to pursue a Free Trade Agreement with the Philippines.

Despite the attacks on human rights advocates, the International Labor Rights Fund will continue to join our allies around the world to demand protection for human rights activists in the Philippines.

FACT FINDING REPORT ON THE PHILIPPINES

Issued March 2007

International Labor Rights Fund

For Immediate Release
December 7, 2006

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**FACT FINDING REPORT
ON THE PHILIPPINES***Issued March 2007*

APPENDIX II:

Arroyo's measures of repression fail to stop ASEAN Critics; US delegates join protests vs. U.S. war & trade agenda in Asia

CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES—In spite of increased police surveillance by Philippine authorities in advance of the now-postponed 12th Annual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit, leading to the deportation of Washington D.C.-based human rights lawyer Brian Campbell and the denial of entry of delegates from South Asia, over 300 delegates to the International Conference on U.S. Militarism and War on Terror in the Asia-Pacific firmly resolved to strengthen their regional linkages to resist further U.S. militarization in Cebu City from December 9-10, 2006.

A US delegation of 6 was able to attend the said conferences with the intention of coordinating intensified US-based campaign work around US militarism of the Asia Pacific region, despite a list of targeted US groups banned from entering the country as the Philippine government's attempt to eliminate the presence of foreign protestors against the ASEAN agenda.

Atty. Campbell had planned to attend the Jobs and Justice Conference, also organized by those who convened the anti-U.S. militarism conference. Campbell has been an out-spoken critic of the Arroyo government's ruthless killing of activists, particularly labor unionists opposed to her regime. This morning, another unionist was murdered. Jesus Servida, a full-time organizer of workers employed in a Japanese multinational corporation in a Philippine export-processing zone, was found dead at the factory gates.

The ASEAN Summit, scheduled to meet in Cebu City, where officials were to flesh out the U.S.-ASEAN Enhanced Partnership signed in July 2006 which includes a provision to "deepen and broaden cooperation in combating terrorism" was postponed because Philippine officials claimed the summit could not be convened because of weather reports of a coming typhoon, which many have declared as untrue.

Cebu's Mactan International airport, however, remains open.

Heavy rains did not deter representatives from NGOs and social movements who attended the anti-U.S. militarism conference delegates from throughout the Asia-Pacific. Conference participants believe the ASEAN Summit was postponed because of the growing "political storm" opposing the expansion of the United States' "war on terror" in the region. Indeed, in March 2006, U.S. Navy Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command or PACOM declared, "Southeast Asia is the front line of the war on terror." Conference attendees believe U.S. military presence will intensify with greater U.S.-ASEAN security cooperation.

Teresa Gutierrez, Co-Director of the International Action Center and delegate to the anti-U.S. militarism conference declares, "The issue of U.S. militarism throughout Southeast Asia and around the globe is one that the U.S. anti-war movement must take up with all urgency.

News Release*December 11, 2006*

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*Issued March 2007***Arroyo's measures of repression fail; US delegates join protests***(Continued)*

U.S. bases deprive peasants of their land in South Korea; U.S. soldiers rape Filipinas living near the bases. The so-called war on terror, is in fact, a war of terror which terrorizes the people of this region.”

Berna Ellorin from BAYAN-USA, also a delegate of the conference explains how, “thousands have been killed by the U.S.-backed Macapagal-Arroyo government which uses the rhetoric of the ‘war on terror’ to ruthlessly eliminate her critics.”

Dasaw Floyd from the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, also a US delegate, linked the escalating repressive situation of Asian-Pacific peoples to the escalation of repression of people of color and workers in the United States, stating “both societies are experiencing exploitative and abusive conditions under the same US apparatus of total war and the forced impoverishment of peoples abroad and at home.”

Delegates ended the conference, which fell on International Human Rights Day, with the formation of the Asia-Pacific Anti-U.S. Bases Coalition which commits itself to fostering solidarity amongst movements fighting U.S. military presence in the region.

The US delegates resolved to carry the regional Asia-Pacific campaign against US bases to the United States through a series of reportbacks and various forms of information dissemination. The group also resolved to organize a larger and higher-profile US delegation to return to the Philippines by next year.

U.S. IMPERIALISM: OUT OF THE PHILIPPINES!

The International Action Center extends its warm greetings to the movement in the Philippines for justice and independence.

For decades, the people of the Philippines have been carrying out a just, righteous struggle against forces on the islands and abroad that aim to control and exploit them. These forces impose economic and political policies that deepen capitalist exploitation and result in dire poverty and repression. The unabated killing of activists has been described as a “pattern of political executions”.

Yet the Filipino people heroically continue to carry out many righteous struggles, such as for union and women’s rights and against privatization and repression, even under martial law. And the struggle to oust President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who supports the U.S. war in Iraq, is linked with the anti-war struggle here in the United States.

The Filipino people’s voice of longstanding must be heard around the world. It is inspiring. It resonates among millions of people worldwide who face similar conditions.

The main foreign power that threatens peace and denies justice to the Filipino people is U.S. imperialism. As activists in the United States, we stand in solidarity with the Filipino people. We commit ourselves to expose the atrocities being carried out in the Philippines and to organize to oppose the brutal economic conditions and waves of repression that the Filipino people face daily. We will work hard to expose the militarization of the Philippines by the United States, as exemplified by the rebuilding of U.S. military bases in Mindanao.

North Americans condemn the brutal raping of Philippine women by U.S. soldiers, such as the case at Subic military base. We cannot allow the U.S. government to carry out and cover up these atrocities with impunity.

As a result of brutal economic policies on the islands, about 3,000 Filipinos are forced to migrate out of their homeland every day. Of those thousands, over 60,000 enter the United States every year. Last spring, Filipinos joined Latinos and many other immigrants when millions of workers throughout the United States marched for their rights. This movement, although it has a long way to go to achieve full rights, was nonetheless able to stop the super-repressive and

anti-immigrant legislation, the Sensenbrenner bill.

This victory is but one example that shows the monster that is the U.S. government has feet of clay and can be stopped.

There is much to be hopeful about.

The struggle against war and occupation in Iraq is another example of how people are fighting and winning against U.S. imperialism. The Iraqi people are being devastated, their country being destroyed—but no Pentagon weaponry can crush their resistance or overcome their determination to define their own destiny and control their nation. The same is true in Palestine and Lebanon, where the people of the Middle East continue to resist Zionism and imperialism.

And throughout the world, people are inspired by developments in Latin America. The emergence of President Hugo Chavez and the people’s movement to carry out the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela is a blow against imperialism. In Oaxaca and throughout Mexico, the Mexican people at imperialism’s very front door are rocking their country with their struggle for dignity and justice.

In Cuba, despite the longest blockade in history, the Cuban people continue to defend their Revolution against all odds. The Cuban government and its leadership remain defiant against imperialism. They stand as a symbol of another and better way.

Everywhere around the world, including the Philippines where the imperialists have carried out economic and trade policies on behalf of the corporations, the people are fighting back. They have no other choice.

The International Action Center was formed in 1991 with the firm belief that the movement in the United States owes it to the rest of the world to do everything it can to organize the biggest, strongest anti-imperialist movement possible in this country. We dedicate ourselves to building a broad anti-imperialist and anti-racist movement with a long term goal of defeating imperialism once and for all. That is the greatest act of solidarity we can give to the people of the Philippines and all people struggling against exploitation around the world.

Mabuhay ang Sambayanang Pilipino!



TROOPS OUT NOW!

The International Action Center is a proud member of the Troops Out Now Coalition (TONC), a national grassroots coalition of antiwar activists, trade unionists, solidarity activists and community organizers. TONC is unique in that it has brought many different organizations representing the U.S. working class and peace movement together. Groups such as the Million Worker March and the May 1st Coalition for immigrant rights have played key roles.”

TONC activists first assembled in New York City for a December 2004 National Strategy Meeting and issued a call for a day of protest on March 19, the second anniversary of the beginning of the war. The protest began with a historic rally in Harlem and marched to the residence of Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Thousands marched under the banners “End the Occupation of Iraq, Haiti, and Palestine; U.S. Troops Out Now; Money for Jobs, Housing, Education, and Healthcare,” and “Harlem’s Legacy is Fightback: Bring Our Children Home from Your Dirty War for Oil and Greed.”

In November 2006, the Troops Out Now Coalition issued a statement which reads in part:

- **Stop the War at Home & Abroad**
- **Stop Police Brutality: JAIL KILLER COPS**
- **U.S. Hands Off Venezuela! • Lift the Blockade of Cuba!**
- **Solidarity with the people of Oaxaca & Mexico!**
- **Independence for Puerto Rico!**

MARCH ON WASHINGTON D.C. & WORLDWIDE PROTEST

SAT • MARCH 17, 2007

4th Anniversary of the U.S. Invasion & Occupation of Iraq

The Troops Out Now Coalition calls on antiwar forces in the U.S. to unite, rise up and take over Washington, D.C.; and antiwar forces across the world to march as well on Saturday, March 17, the weekend of the fourth anniversary of the criminal war and occupation of Iraq.

The two interrelated processes that will end this criminal war and occupation are its defeat by the resistance of the Iraqi people on one hand, and on the other the mass struggle of the people right here in the streets of this country that refuse to tolerate the war any longer. The resistance of the Iraqi people has virtually accomplished its part. The weakness in this equation is the U.S. antiwar movement.

Fight Racism & National Oppression—If We Don’t, It Will Divide Us

The more the system attacks the living standards of working people, the more the political servants of the system are going to intensify racism and repression. Solidarity amongst peoples and movements and forward motion in the struggle

will depend upon our movements’ understanding of this, and whether or not we consciously fight against racism and national oppression in our day-to-day work and around all issues local, national and international.

Build Alliances with the Movements for Immigrant Rights and Katrina Survivors

A top priority for the antiwar movement must be building real alliances with the movements against racism and national oppression here at home. Doing so will require that the movement forges a far more serious and qualitative relationship with the struggles of Black, Latin@, Asian,

Arab, Native, and all peoples of color, and in particular the struggle of undocumented immigrants and workers for full rights and the struggle of the survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita for justice, the right of return, self-determination and reconstruction.



We Must Merge the Struggle Against the War with the Struggle of Workers

It's not enough for the antiwar movement to merely give lip service to the struggles of working people and go on as a movement, separate from the masses. Our challenge from is to help facilitate something that is as necessary as it is natural—the

merging of the struggle against the wars at home with the wars abroad. The struggle against the war should be inseparable from the struggles against political repression and for the rights of women, lesbian, gay, bi and trans people, youth and prisoners.

An Anti-imperialist World View is Central to Our Survival as a Movement

There's a false notion in some quarters of the movement that we can only be effective by diluting our demands, our politics and our analyses (and tactics) to the lowest, safe common denominator. Just the opposite is true. If we are not guided by a deeper analysis, our movement will be left confused, ineffective and irrelevant. The truth is that we are not only fighting one president--dangerous war criminal that he is--we are also

fighting a dangerous and criminal imperialist system. We must be prepared to fight the global scope of U.S. imperialism's war drive. We must also fight for an end to the occupations of Palestine, Afghanistan, Haiti and all U.S. occupations, interventions, plots, colonial machinations, direct or indirect as well as threats across the globe, whether against the peoples of the Philippines, Sudan, Cuba, Venezuela or Puerto Rico.

The Immediate, Complete, & Unconditional End to the Occupation of Iraq

The war and occupation in Iraq is in a head-spinning freefall, and right now the generals and politicians are scrabbling in desperation to stem or at least slow down the meltdown. In the coming weeks, we will hear more plans coming from poli-

ticians, generals, and the White House for major changes to their Iraq war strategy. None of these face-saving plans will call for what we want--an immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all occupation troops from Iraq.

DISARMAMENT BEGINS AT HOME

- End All Occupations—from Iraq to Palestine to Haiti
- No Sanctions & War Against North Korea & Iran
- Money for Jobs, a Living Wage, Healthcare, Schools, Pensions—NOT WAR



Free all U.S. political prisoners!

Despite a media blockade and lies from the U.S. government, many political prisoners exist in this country. Their crime? Defending their community against racism or war!

Some major political prisoners in the U.S. are:

FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a revolutionary journalist and political prisoner who has been languishing on Pennsylvania's death row for almost 25 years. Known as the "voice of the voiceless," Mumia is an international leader in the fight against war, racism and all forms of repression and exploitation. A serious threat on Mumia's life is a serious attack on all of our struggles. Go to prisonradio.org to hear his inspiring audio columns. Go to millions4mumia.org to find out how to get involved in the mass movement to win his freedom.



CUBAN FIVE HEROES

Five Cubans languish in federal prisons throughout the U.S. solely for defending Cuba from imperialist terror. The U.S. justice department sentenced them harshly & unfairly. The Five are innocent and a worldwide campaign exists to get them home to their beloved country, Cuba. Visit www.freethefiveny.com to help join the campaign. Visit www.iacenter.org for ongoing updates on these cases.



FREE LEONARD PELTIER

A leader of the American Indian Movement, Peltier is serving a life sentence in Leavenworth Prison. He was railroaded into jail allegedly for the deaths of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge reservation in 1975. He has been imprisoned for the past 30 years and is in failing health. Peltier's supporters are demanding that the FBI release thousands of documents under the Freedom of Information Act that could prove his innocence. On Feb. 6, actions will be held in his support.

Defend the Struggle for Immigrant Rights! No Borders in the Workers Struggle!

The IAC is a member of the May 1st Coalition for Immigrant Rights. Last spring as the movement of immigrants heated up, many leaders and organizations feared a massive outpouring in the streets on May Day, a historic day for workers. The May 1st Coalition welcomed this momentum. It worked hard to make May 1st successful by providing an organizational apparatus and support for immigrants. The spring mobilizations culminated in a massive boycott and strike among a key sector of the working class.

As the movement rose, racist terrorists like the Minutemen and their allies in the media and in the government launched a backlash. A wave of terror is sweeping the immigrant community. The Asian and Muslim community is targeted for racial

profiling and falsely labeled terrorists, detained and deported unjustly, while the real terrorists sit in the White House. Latino immigrants face roundups as well, and racist anti-Latino local laws are being passed in an attempt to intimidate immigrants.

The May 1st Coalition is organizing solidarity with immigrants by reaching out to U.S.-born workers to support foreign-born workers. Unity and solidarity are key in pushing back racist reaction. Globalization, i.e. imperialism, has made the slogan "no borders in the workers struggle" ever more important.

A broad coalition of organizations have issued a call for May 1st 2007 and our coalition is actively supporting this call.

To find out more about the IAC or to donate to help in our work please visit www.iacenter.org or contact us at:

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