

- Your administration's stated intent to export a million Filipinos every year, 65% women, to cover-up the public treasury's bankrupt state, a result of election over-spending and corruption, and to be able to service the \$57 billion owed to the IMF/WB.

We ask that you order the Philippine Armed Forces, its paramilitary units and all its instrumentalities to cease and desist their murderous campaign against BAYAN, GABRIELA and other people's organizations, as well as progressive electoral parties. In addition, we ask that you hold accountable all military personnel responsible for these continuing human rights violations and assassinations, which are rapidly becoming a hallmark of your administration.

We ask that you look into the link between the presence of US troops in the Philippines and the degeneration of human, civil and women's rights in the archipelago. We ask that you cancel all negotiations to transfer from Okinawa to the Philippines US military bases, as this would indubitably violate the Philippine Constitution you swore to uphold. Indeed, the mere presence of the US military in whatever capacity on Philippine soil already violates your country's constitution.

By this open letter, we wish to register our condemnation of the murders, arrests and harassment of activists who merely wish to secure for the poor and the powerless access to civil, human and women's rights. We wish to register our protest at your government's cultivation of the "culture of impunity," which accepts the extrajudicial execution, arrest and torture of those who dissent.

We ask that you take seriously the oath you took as president -- to protect the constitution, sovereignty, patrimony, territory and interests of the people of the Philippines. Those who unable or unwilling to fulfill the tasks and responsibilities specified in the presidential oath should hold neither the title nor the position.

Sincerely,

GABRIELA International Network (GAIN)
Equality in Unity; Justice in Strength
internationalgabriela@yahoo.com.au

PROTEST

THE WAR OF TERROR IN THE PHILIPPINES

In full support of the US so-called war on terror, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) has declared war on all people who are critical of her government. Community organizers, mass leaders, striking peasants, and workers are being harassed, disappeared, and killed. Entire communities are being terrorized.

Earlier this year, the Philippine military released a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Knowing the Enemy." Containing 335 slides, the presentation points to members of peoples organizations, church leaders, journalists, activists as enemies of the state. According to Philippine Colonel Palparan, members of organizations like GABRIELA and BAYAN (New Patriotic Alliance) are fair game in the US war on terror. The Philippine military have been wreaking havoc with absolute impunity. Perpetrators like Palparan, now a General, are being rewarded by GMA for their crimes.

Since the declaration of the Philippines as the Second Front in the US-led global war against terror, military spending by the Philippine government has increased 60%. In the 1990s, annual military spending averaged 28 billion pesos. Since 2002, the Philippine government's armed forces spend an average of 45 billion pesos annually.

The US have committed at least \$356 million in military aid to the Philippines. This amount is up from the US' pre-9/11 annual military assistance of \$30-\$40 million. And with this amount, the Philippines will soon become the fourth largest recipient of US foreign military assistance.

Meanwhile, the US State Department, in its own report released in February 2005, said that Philippine security forces have been responsible for serious human rights abuses. The report found that elements of the Philippine armed forces practiced extrajudicial killings, vigilantism, disappearances, torture, and arbitrary arrest and detention. In short, George W. Bush and company are using the US people's tax dollars to fund and train human rights violators.



PHOTO: ARKIBO BAYAN

**NATIONWIDE VIGIL
20 MAY 2005**

**to PROTEST the war of terror--curtailing of
press freedom, political killings and
repression--in the Philippines**

Organized by GABRIELA Network

*Actions in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York,
Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle*

ENDORSED BY (partial list): Asia Pacific Action . Bamboo Girl . Beyond Media . Chicago Dyke March . Chicago Community Center . Chicago Center for Immigrant Rights . Cross Border Labor Organizing Committee . DAMAYAN Migrant Workers Association . International Action Center (LA) . Kabataang maka-Bayan/Pro-People Youth USA . Mango Tribe . Network in Solidarity with the People of the Philippines . NorthWest Constitutional Rights Center . Oregon Action . Ugnayan ng mga Anak ng Bayan/Linking the Children with the Motherland . Pintig Cultural Group . Portland Central America Solidarity Committee . Queers for Peace and Justice . Radical Women . REACH-Representing Education, Activism and Community through Hip-Hop . Women's Anti-Imperialist League (WAIL)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Register your protest. Sign and send our open letter to Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the next page. Or sign online: <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/nohrv05/petition.html>.

GABRIELA Network (GABNet) is a US-based multi-racial women's solidarity mass organization. We work with GABRIELA Philippines, a national alliance of more than 200 women's organizations. We work on issues that impact women of Philippine ancestry, but which have their roots in the decisions made in the United States. GABNet provides the means by which Filipinas in the US can empower themselves, functions as a training ground for women's leadership, and articulates the women's point of view. We have 8 chapters: Chicago, Los Angeles, Irvine, New York/New Jersey, Portland, San Francisco/Bay Area and Washington, DC; and 2 university-based units in Berkeley and DePaul University-Chicago. GABNet effects change through organizing, educating, fundraising, networking, and advocacy.



GABRIELA Network
PO Box 403, Times Square Station
New York, NY 10036
212.592.3507 gabnet@gabnet.org
www.gabnet.org

**JOIN
GAB
NET**

KUWENTONG BABAE | WOMEN TALK
Filipino Women's History: A Legacy of Sisterhood in Action

Saturday, 25 June 2005, 11AM-4PM

339 Lafayette (corner of Bleecker), 3rd floor (buzzer 11),
AJ Muste Memorial Institute office, Manhattan, NYC

Directions by subway: 6 to Bleecker OR B/D/F/V to Broadway/Lafayette.

All WOMEN are invited.

RSVP by 6/20: nynj@gabnet.org, 212.592.3507

**OPEN LETTER TO PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-
ARROYO IN PROTEST OF HR VIOLATIONS & ASSASSINATIONS BY
THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY**

H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
President of the Republic of the Philippines
Malacanang Palace
JP Laurel St., San Miguel
Manila, Philippines
Email: corres@op.gov.ph, opnet@ops.gov.ph

Your Excellency:

We find it ironic that a government supposedly part of the "war against terrorism" should be waging state terrorism. Such a conclusion, however, is inevitable in the light of the following:

- The continuing assassination of peasant leaders and their allies in the wake of a military-paramilitary attack on striking workers of Hacienda Luisita, in which nearly a dozen landless farmers were killed;
- The continuing assassination, arrest and harassment of members/organizers of the partylist BAYAN MUNA, electoral arm of the progressive alliance BAYAN, of whom 48 have been killed;
- The continuing assassination, arrest and harassment of members/organizers of the women's alliance GABRIELA and its electoral arm, GABRIELA Women's party, of whom 11 have been killed, including a vice-mayor.
- The assassination attempt on Atty. Romeo Capulong, legal consultant of the National Democratic Front;
- The disappearance of some 115 men and women during your short tenure as president.

These are taking place in the context of:

- Your administration's attempt to triple the tax burden of the Filipino people through the so-called VAT (Value-added taxes);
- Your administration's negotiations with the US to transfer US military bases in Okinawa to the Philippines, specifically to the oil and natural resources-rich areas of Central and Southern Philippines;

(over)