



NEWS DISPATCH

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Human Rights Violations and U.S. Intervention Continue to Victimize Filipino People

The Filipino people yearn for a just peace and want nothing less than *meaningful changes* -- such as comprehensive land reform and the removal of U.S. bases -- that address the roots of their marginalization and poverty. Such a quest is not advanced by U.S. intervention of all sorts directed at buttressing the forces in the Philippines opposed to these changes -- an escalating intervention that has made peace and the human rights of Filipinos its casualties.

The Aquino government has now given in to steady pressure from the Philippine military and the U.S. to pursue fratricidal warfare along the lines of Low Intensity Conflict (LIC) strategy (see accompanying article). A *Newsweek* (March 23, 1987) article reports that Reagan and Aquino have come to an agreement of allowing more U.S. military aid to deal with counter-insurgency. The

same article also disclosed that the CIA also decided to increase its station personnel in Manila.

Sans the piecemeal reforms for human rights initiated by the Aquino government, the country's human rights situation remain no different from Marcos' heydays. It is "business as usual" as elements within the military continue to victimize individuals, groups and communities purportedly aiding the insurgent's cause.

The fragile promise of February, in short, remains unrealized -- shattered by forces who would like the people to forget its bigger promise of rapid and massive social and economic change, genuine equality, and national sovereignty.

We in the APC extend our solidarity with the families of victims of human rights violations and to all who refuse to forget that bigger promise.

Human Rights Violations in the Philippines Worsen ...

In the first seven months of the Aquino administration, the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, a human rights monitoring agency, documented:

- 603 cases of illegal arrests and detention;
- 88 "salvaging" cases; and
- 238 torture incidents.

Tallies of human rights violations committed by the Philippine military and paramilitary groups also showed:

- 68 massacres;
- 7 incidents of hamletting; and
- 34 cases of forced evacuation.

Since then, human rights abuses continue to rise:

- the kidnap, torture and brutal murder of Rolando Olalia, a popular labor leader last November;
- the massacre of 18 peasants in front of the presidential palace on Jan. 22;
- on Feb. 10, the military killed 17 civilians in Lupao, Nueva Ecija;
- an engineer and a 12 year old boy were killed when police and troops

fired at a worker's picket line in Mariveles, Bataan (Jan. 31, 1987).

- On Feb. 10, the 17th Infantry Battalion killed 21 residents of Bucao, Luna;

- On March 1, 1987, 4 people were hacked to death by a vigilante group aided by the military;

- in Tayasan, Negros Occidental, government soldiers burned a whole village resulting in 2 deaths last March 25-26.

On the island of Mindanao, the level of militarization far exceeds that of the Marcos dictatorship:

- Since February, 1987, after the end of the ceasefire agreement, military operations have displaced or hamletted 23,000 residents of South Cotabato, Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur, and Davao del Norte.

- On February 28, a strafing massacre launched by the military massacred 31 people in Mandug, Davao City.

... in line with U.S. counter-insurgency strategy

Low Intensity Conflict (LIC) is the name given to the new U.S. military strategy. Basically LIC is an integrated, long-term warfare strategy for military activities and political program for manipulating public opinion in both the U.S. and in target nations like the Philippines.

It is vital to know the main approaches which are used simultaneously in LIC:

-- *politico-ideological factors*: strong use of "anti-communist" versus "pro-democratic" rhetoric;

-- *socio-economic factors*: blockages, embargoes, bombings and army sweeps among civilians, and use of "humanitarian aid";

-- *psychological factors*: use of fear and terrorism, political turmoil and propaganda, manipulating the media to "interpret" the facts, thus neutralizing the potential domestic opposition by projecting the local conflict into an East-West battle;

-- *military factors*: provide logistic and intelligence support to hot spots without the overt use of U.S. soldiers (to minimize adverse U.S. public reaction), the use of "military advisers", smaller army units, foreign "police training programs" and contra aid type of programs.

Since October 1986, retired-general John Singlaub (contra aid proponent), ex-CIA deputy chief Ray Kline, and Gen. Sweitzer and Norbert Garrett of the CIA have made frequent visits to the Philippines. Singlaub is involved in many extreme-rightist groups, and also happens to be the Chairman of the World Anti-Communist League. Last February, the Reagan administration OK'd \$10M for CIA operations in the Philippines, along with an increase of U.S. military advisers by 10%.

The ALLIANCE FOR PHILIPPINE CONCERNS (APC) is a network of nearly fifty organizations and individuals in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Member organizations include Church, students and youth, health and medical workers, lawyers, cultural, children and other community groups. Contact the APC-San Francisco Bay Area chapter for more information.
JOIN US NOW!

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**SPECIAL ISSUE:
Human Rights Situation and the
Strategy of U.S. Intervention in
the Philippines**

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Urgent Call to Action

**SAY NO!
TO U.S. INTERVENTION !!**

The Reagan Administration has requested \$112.6 million in military grant and military training for the Armed Forces of the Philippines for Fiscal Year 1988 (\$110M in outright grant and \$2.6M in military education and training). **THIS IS OVER 100% INCREASE IN THE MILITARY GRANT AWARDED IN FY '87!** To make matters worse, Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-NY) has marked up the military package as part of an overall approach to the counter-insurgency program in the Philippines.

The Alliance for Philippine Concerns finds the Reagan-Solarz proposal the most recent example of U.S. intervention in Philippine affairs. With military atrocities on the rise (see inside article) -- at the same or worse level than under the Marcos dictatorship -- along with covert CIA operations spearheaded

by Ret. Gen. John Singlaub and ex-CIA chief Ray Kline, further U.S. support of the Philippine military will inevitably result in more human rights violations. **WE NEED TO PUT A STOP TO U.S. INTERVENTION IN THE PHILIPPINES NOW!**

Your urgent action is needed to reverse the increased U.S. meddling in the Philippines. Please call, write, or form a delegation to visit your representatives or Senator as soon as possible and ask them:

- not to support more military aid since this would only escalate the level of violence in the Philippines;

- to support instead the quest for a just peace through a policy of peaceful reconciliation based on meaningful reforms that would address the demands of the

marginalized poor in the Philippines;

- to investigate the links between Ret. Gen. John Singlaub, who appears to be a key participant in the Iran-Contra affair, and other CIA-related persons, and right-wing activities in the Philippines; and

- to call for the study of alternatives to the U.S. bases in the Philippines for eventual dismantling by 1991.

For calls to both Representatives and Senators, please dial (202) 224-3121, then ask for your party. **WE NEED TO ACT NOW!**

The Alliance for Philippine Concerns is coordinating a national campaign against U.S. military aid to the Philippines. For further information, call (415) 540-5230.