



PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL

Second Session on the Philippines

Indicting the U.S.-backed Arroyo Regime for Human Rights Violations,
Economic Plunder and Transgression of the Filipino People's Sovereignty
<http://tribunal-on-the-philippines.org>

April 27, 2007

Dearest Oda Makoto,

Warmest greetings!

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and admiration for everything you have done to support the Filipino people's struggle for social justice, freedom and democracy, and to promote the Japanese people's solidarity with our people.

We especially thank you for your invaluable participation as juror in the Permanent People's Tribunal Second Session on the Philippines held in The Hague last 21-25 March. Having served in the jury at the PPT first session on the Philippines, your presence in the jury of the second session contributed immensely to its understanding of the Philippine situation and thereby to its capacity to render a just verdict based on the evidences presented by the complainants. Further, your solid record as a respected social activist considerably enhanced the credibility and stature of the Tribunal.

We recall the concern and alarm you had expressed upon realizing the gravity of the human rights situation in the Philippines and how the Japanese media has not printed nor broadcast a single item on it. It has come to our knowledge that immediately upon arrival in Japan, you had taken extraordinary effort to call the attention of your compatriots to the Philippine situation and to initiate actions to promote solidarity with the our people's struggle, especially to defend our sovereignty and uphold our civil, social, economic and cultural rights.

We are deeply saddened by the news that your health has deteriorated, partly as a result of the strain and rigors you have had to undergo during the past two months, during and after the PPT session on the Philippines. We regret not having known of your specific medical situation beforehand, for we could have taken more measures necessary to reduce if not eliminate avoidable stresses and discomforts. But we fully understand and admire the selflessness behind your not informing us of your condition, thinking that to do so would only burden us unnecessarily.

We salute you, sir, for all these remarkable undertakings you had made in solidarity with our people without regard for your own physical and medical wellbeing. Only recently has it come to our knowledge that you had decided to serve on the Tribunal against the advise of your doctor, family and friends who were concerned that the rigors of travel and work would aggravate your condition. As indeed they have. And yet, rather than get a much deserved and needed rest upon your return to Japan, you continued to work in solidarity with our people well beyond your responsibilities and function as a juror, being a true internationalist and social activist.

You remind us, sir, of the Canadian doctor Norman Bethune, who selflessly and tirelessly served in the battlefield in China in solidarity with the Chinese people. Like him, you remind

and inspire us of our internationalist duty to subordinate personal comfort and interest in tirelessly working for freedom, justice and democracy not only for our own people but for the people of the world.

We fervently hope for your recovery and good health.

On behalf of the initiating group and organizers of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal Second Session on the Philippines,

Rey Claro C. Casambre

Rey Claro C. Casambre
Philippine Peace Center
Head, Philippine Coordinating Secretariat

Angelica M. Gonzales

Angelica M. Gonzales
Philippine Peace Center
Executive Director, International Coordinating Secretariat

Initiating Organizations:

HUSTISYA! (Victims of the Arroyo Regime United for Justice)
SELDA (Society of Ex-Detainees for Liberation from Detention and Amnesty)
Families of the DESAPARACIDOS for Justice
BAYAN (New Patriotic Alliance)
Ecumenical Bishops Forum
United Church of Christ in the Philippines
Peace for Life
Public Interest Law Center
Philippine Peace Center
KARAPATAN (Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights)
Ibon Foundation.

ICS Fax number: +31 30236 4903; Please indicate: Attention: Angie Gonzales PPT2

ICS Mailing Address: Postbus 1584
3500 BN Utrecht
The Netherlands

Mobile number: +31 (0)6 30911756

General Secretariat

Via della Dogana Vecchia, 5-00186 Rome - Italy
Tel./fax: 0039-06- 6877774
E-mail: filb@iol.it
Web: www.internazionaleleliobasso.it

International Coordinating Secretariat

Mail: Postbus 1584 Visit us: Mariahoek 16 – 17
3500 BN Utrecht or 3511 LG Utrecht
The Netherlands The Netherlands
E-mail: secretariat@philippinetribunal.org

Philippine Coordinating Secretariat

2nd Floor, #1 Maaralin corner Matatag Streets,
Central District, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel/Fax: 4342837
E-mail: philcord_2006@yahoo.com