



Inang Bayan

(Motherland)

International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP)

April 2016

April 8 Global Day of Action for Kidapawan Strong condemnation of the US-Aquino regime

"We told them that all we wanted was relief from the drought, especially the rice, and we would leave, but the chief of police insisted that they would disperse us by force if we did not leave. Soon after, fire trucks bombarded us with water cannon and riot police began moving in and striking protesters with their batons. When the protesters resisted, they started shooting at us. At first, despite the casualties, the farmers stood their ground and wanted to fight back but we ordered a withdrawal to avoid more harm from happening. Now I lost a fellow farmer, and others are wounded, and many are hungry."

Pedro Arnado

Chairman

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)

Southern Mindanao Region



They asked for food, they were given bullets instead.

TENS of thousands from hundreds of organizations from all over the globe expressed solidarity with the farmers of Kidapawan, North Cotabato in the Philippines after the police opened fire on their legitimate protest for food relief.

The protest started on March 29. It was the "*Day of the Landless*". A global action was organized by 22 organizations affiliated with the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC), International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) Commission 6 and the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS).

The Aliansi Gerakan Reforma Agraria (AGRA) in Indonesia together with the Front Perjuangan Rakyat/ the People's Struggle Front (FPR) mobilized more than ten thousand farmers and advocates in Jakarta and in the provinces. Police dispersal in Central Sulawesi injured 14 farmers.

The Bangladesh Agricultural Farm Labour Federation (BAFLF), National Women Farmers & Workers Association (NWFA), Bangladesh Bhumiheen Samity (BBS) and Labour Resource Center (LRC) organized simultaneous actions.

The Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT) and Roots for Equity mobilized more than a thousand in a

protest rally in Lahore City and in Haripur. More actions were held in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Taiwan.

ON that very same day, March 29, in the Philippines, some 6,000 farmers picketed a local office of the National Food Authority demanding 15,000 sacks of rice. It was a declared state of calamity as early as January after a severe and prolonged drought devastated their crops and, with government inaction, left over 30,000 farmers starving for months.

On the third day of their protest, April 1, they were forcibly dispersed and fired upon by armed troops of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Even as the farmers retreated, troops of the 39th Infantry Battalion, 6th Infantry Division, of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) pursued them at a local church. These security forces are supported, trained and equipped by the United States.

Two were killed and scores injured, no less than 22 from gunshot wounds. Of the 78 arrested, four were minors, 29 women, three of them pregnant, and six elderly with ages ranging from 60 to 78.

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Outside the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco (top) and New York (right).



The Kidapwan killings stirred a public outcry. Among the first to denounce the Philippine government are Filipino communities abroad -- from Asia, North America, and Europe. Social media was abuzz with protests. On-line petition signing demanding justice gained hundreds of support.



NETHERLANDS



CANADA



APWLD



ITALY



International Migrants Alliance in New York.



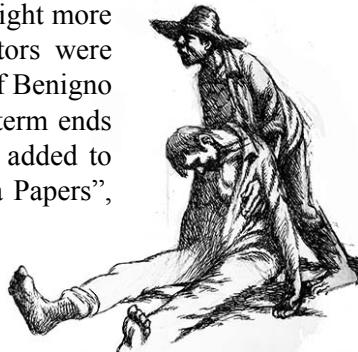
Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network

Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III broke his silence a full week after the bloody dispersal. Police officers were promised medals. The local police chief was sacked after a Senate investigation. The case, however, is far from closed.

At least three massacres are under the Aquino family's name. The January 22, 1987 Mendiola massacre under Pres. Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino left 13 farmers dead. The November 16, 2004 massacre in the family-owned Hacienda Luisita left seven dead and eight more after. Criminal charges against the perpetrators were dismissed in 2010, during the very first year of Benigno S Aquino III's term as President. Before his term ends this 2016, the April 1 Kidapawan killings is added to their name. They may not be in the "Panama Papers", but Kidapawan is definitely to their ignominy.



Solidarity from Senegal.



At the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong.



- 192 organizations from 40 countries signed to a joint letter initiated by the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) to be submitted to UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food
- 206 individuals to an online petition by the Indigenous Peoples' Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL)
- 33 organizations abroad with their own statements of condemnation/ solidarity
- 16 mass mobilizations outside the Philippines (as of April 12, 2016)

The United States allocated more than \$120 million in military aid to the Philippines this year, the biggest in 15 years.

Can we let this happen again? The global community says, No!

Thus, the Global Day of Action on April 8 in solidarity with the Kidpawan farmers gained immediate and wide support from various sectors, regions and countries.

As the arrests, trumped-up charges and harassments continue against the farmers and the Filipino people, the Campaign for “Land, Food, Justice” continues.

Organizations are enjoined to participate in the International Conference on Peoples’ Rights (ICPRP) in July this year in Davao City, Philippines.

The global actions are a strong condemnation of the US-Aquino regime and a step forward against imperialism, militarism and local reaction. It reinforces the confidence of farmers in their collective action and the people’s fight for genuine national and social emancipation. ■

#FoodNotBullets



LONDON



ITALY



FRANCE



SPAIN



INDONESIA



TAIWAN