

Declaration from the congress of International Forum, November 11-12, 2006

Stop the Political Killings in the Philippines

Since the USA based President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2001 came to power in the Philippines a still growing number of political activists, trade union activists, journalists, lawyers, members of Parliament, church people and human right activists have been the victims of threatening, illegal imprisonment, torture, killing and abduction. During the last 5 Years more than 750 activists and have been killed and almost 200 have been abducted.

With the blessing of USA and WTO and using the global “War on Terror” as an excuse the Philippine Government is waging war on all citizens in opposition. Popular movements and parties are placed in the so called “Terror list” and are called “Enemies of The State” by a Government who - backed up by the military - is clinging to power by every means.

In the name of the “Holy Globalization” multinational corporations like Nestlé, San Miguel, Toyota and Honda profit by the brutal oppression of the most basic human rights like freedom of speech and the right to organize.

In spite of international protests from among others Amnesty International, ILO and ITUC the state terror against the Philippine people is growing still stronger. Workers are threatened if they join trade unions. Workers on strike face the heavily armed Military and trade union leaders are being killed by death squads.

We express our strong solidarity with the Nestlé workers who for more than 4 years have been on strike in order to force the corporation to respect the agreements with the workers. One year ago the leader of the Nestlé workers “Ka Fort” Fortuna was gunned down in the street by hooded men. As in all the other cases of Political Killings the authorities have done nothing to clear up the murder.

The Nestlé workers on strike in the Philippines have started a worldwide “Boycott Nestlé” campaign which is spreading to still more countries.

On November 16 an international Day of Action named “Against Trade Union Repression and Political Killings” will take place in many countries all over the world. We warmly welcome this initiative and fully support the actions of protest.

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Boycott Nestlé – There is blood in Your Coffee!

Long live International Solidarity!