



Cordillera Peoples Alliance

For the Defense of Ancestral Domain and for Self Determination

September 14, 2009

Message of Solidarity on the 5th Anniversary of the Monday Demonstration

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) salutes the Monday Demonstration for its five years of remarkable work in fighting for a peaceful and just society. We also commend the Monday Demonstration for extending its support to the Cordillera indigenous peoples and the working class in the Philippines, and for visiting the Cordillera and participating in the Cordillera Day celebration last April.

A few days from now, we are all commemorating the 365th day of the enforced disappearance of CPA founding member James Balao since September 17, 2008. It was through the campaign for James' immediate surfacing and for a stop to the unabated human rights violations in the Philippines including enforced disappearances and political killings that a partnership was forged between the Monday Demonstration in Stuttgart and the CPA with the Balao family. It has been a fruitful year of partnership where the Monday Demonstration has stood by its name by tirelessly holding sustained Monday-activities for international public awareness and support as well as pressuring the illegitimate, fascist and corrupt Philippine President Arroyo and concerned government agencies in the Philippines for the immediate release of James Balao.

Likewise, through the German Filipino Friendship Society (GFF), the Monday Demonstration's support to the struggling Lepanto mineworkers in the Cordillera and the oppressed workers in the Philippines has been an added strength in pursuing the fight for labor rights.

The CPA and the Balao family never cease to thank the Monday Demonstration's unwavering support and efforts in the campaign for the immediate release of James and for the Lepanto mineworkers. Your commitment for the protection of human rights and workers' rights has been truly inspiring.

As you celebrate your anniversary today, may you gather more strength and determination in facing challenges and looking forward to another fruitful year of advancing the rights and welfare of the working class; upholding human rights, peace and justice; and advocating indigenous peoples' rights in Germany and elsewhere in the world.

The CPA shall remain with you in your cause. Long live international solidarity!

In solidarity,

WINDEL BOLINGET

General Secretary

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