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migrante
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ISSUE 8

News, Views and Analysis from Migrante Melbourne

BATINGAW; BELL; HERALD; The New Voice of Filipino Migrants in Australia



Philippines: A Democracy in tatters

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A democracy in tatters

In mid July 2007, the Philippine government implemented its newly approved Anti-Terror Bill called the "Human Security Act" (HSA).

Many Filipinos believed that this Act will give the Philippine Military and government agents another weapon to intensify rampant abuses of its citizens' civil and political rights, especially of Filipinos who belong to cause oriented organisations such as human rights and civil rights advocacy groups, church groups and people's organisations. It will also be an instrument for the Government to attack its political opponents.

Section 3 of the Act describes terrorism as an act sowing and creating a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace in order to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand. This could mean then that an act creating fear and panic among the people inflicted by government agents is not terrorism because there is no demand to the government. This could also mean that only those acts presumed to be directed at government could be labelled as terrorism.

Some people may call the implementation of the Human Security Act as a terrorist act for it sows fear among many Filipinos fighting for peace, justice and the respect of people's rights. It is a misnomer to call this act "Human Security Act" when it is the very rights of the people that are under attack.

Senator M Madrigal introduced a bill called the Senate Bill No. 23 to repeal HSA. In the proposed bill Senator Madrigal asserts, "In the hands of a repressive regime like that of Mrs. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the anti-terrorism law creates a shadow criminal justice system that, in turn, can be used as an instrument of greater terror perpetrated by people in power against their critics and political opponents."

Senator Madrigal also describes this Act as a law on "panic" with no clear definition of who a terrorist is. She adds that a person may be labelled as terrorist by reason solely because of his political or religious belief and his defence thereof. Senator Madrigal also said that in a time of intense crisis and undisguised political repression, the law can and will be used to illegalize the legitimate activities of critics and opponents of an oppressive administration.

Even before the implementation of this act, the Philippine military and its agents have attacked unceasingly members of organisations and groups critical of Arroyo's maladministration of government, political and economic misdirection, and gross human rights violations. Killings, abductions and harassments have continued unabated. Since 2001 when President Arroyo assumed presidency, more than 850 people were killed, over 200 abducted and countless harassment occurred.



Protesters in front of Grant Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne calling on President Arroyo to STOP the political killings in the Philippines, 31 May 2007

The Arroyo administration, which claims to uphold democracy, demonstrates it does not tolerate dissent from its populace with the implementation of the HSA. Likewise, this global anti-terror bill, as promoted by the Bush administration to counter any perceived world terror, has been handed down to all its lackeys and underlings to legitimise and further oppress and subjugate an already frightened and alienated population for whose safety? This anti-terror law, places the burden of proving innocence on the accused. The stark truth is, this state-sponsored law is blatant state terrorism and not subject to further scrutiny.

Liberty Victoria on its statement on dissent, censorship and freedom of speech believes that democracy cannot exist without dissent and debate. It also states that dissent and debate are the lifeblood of democracy.

What do we call then a society where the government in power silences any dissenting voice? What kind of democracy does not allow rallies, strikes, debates, freedom of association, freedom of speech and other forms that the people can use to express their dissatisfaction of the way they are treated and the way they are served?

Where do the people go when they are pushed to the edge because of unemployment, constantly rising prices of basic commodities and the absence or sad state of basic services such as health and housing? What can people do when they are being attacked (in the form of killings, abductions, disappearance, imprisonment and harassments) by the very state institution or agents supposed to protect them?

Where is democracy where the persons in power would like to reduce the masses into lame ducks, robots, undernourished followers, malnourished puppets, brainless fans or coward subjects by implementing a law like the Philippine's Human Security Act? #

Ballooning Budget Gap Underlines Flaws In Arroyo's Economic Policies

The steadily growing budget deficit highlights the flaws of Arroyo's so-called economic reforms, particularly the implementation of the reformed value-added tax and its continued adherence to liberalization policies, according to independent think-tank IBON Foundation.

The Department of Finance recently reported that the government had incurred a P41 billion budget deficit in the first half of the year, representing 65% of the P63 billion ceiling set by Finance officials for the entire year. The above-target deficit was attributed to lower than expected tax revenues.

The worsening fiscal situation underlines how revenue losses from trade liberalization, corporate tax evasion and intractable corruption have outpaced revenues from the RVAT, said IBON research head Sonny Africa.

He pointed out that as a result of government's tariff reduction program, import duties as a share of total public revenues have fallen to 19% in 2006 from 36% in 1993. The RVAT generated P76.9 billion in revenues in 2006 and P18.7 billion in the first quarter of the year.

Africa added that a study by the National Tax Research Center showed that between 1998 and 2002, corporate tax evasion resulted in an average of P54 billion in unpaid

taxes during the period studied. Further, the United Nations estimated that in 2001 corrupt officials pocketed 13% of the national budget, or some P100 billion. If this percentage was applied to the 2007 budget, then as much as P146 billion could have been lost to corruption. This means that at least P200 billion may have been lost that could have been channelled towards vital social services such as health and education.

More than the mentioned losses due to liberalization is the debt payments policy. In fact, the Arroyo government is making the most debt payments of any government in the country's history. Total debt service for 2006 was P854 billion even as the national government debt hit P3.9 trillion as of March 2007.

Africa said that contrary to government claims, the growing deficit is not just due to inefficiencies in tax collection but a manifestation of the Arroyo administration's policy failures, which have made the economy vulnerable, caused incomes and livelihoods to collapse, undermined domestic productive sectors and created the conditions for financial crisis. (end)

IBON Foundation, Inc. is an independent development institution established in 1978 that provides research, education, publications, information work and advocacy support on socioeconomic issues.

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About Batingaw

Batingaw is a bi-monthly newsletter expressing views, news and analysis from Migrante Melbourne. An important aspect of developing this newsletter is an intimate knowledge of and close involvement in all aspects of the Philippine and Australian struggles for justice, democracy and fair-go.

Contributing to Batingaw:

Articles, photographs, cartoons, clippings, comments or a few lines are all very welcome. All material should be sent electronically to: melbourne@migrante.org.au. Readers are encouraged to contribute whatever they can by sending donations to the above address.

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IBON Survey

More Filipinos Have Trouble Paying For Meds, Water, Power Bills

Filipinos are increasingly having trouble paying for their basic expenses, especially for medicines and medical treatment, and for their water and power bills, according to the results of the latest IBON survey. Respondents of the IBON July 2007 Survey said that, during the past three months, they had difficulty meeting the following expenses: electricity and/or water (72.45%); medicines and/or medical treatment (71.24%); children's schooling (67.74%); food (67%); and transportation (65.32%).

These responses were substantially higher than those gathered in the same period last year, when 64% of respondents said they had trouble paying for their water and/or electricity; 62.47% said they had trouble meeting medicines and/or medical treatment; 66.7% said they did not have enough to buy food; 63.69% had trouble paying for their children's schooling and 59.65% had trouble meeting transportation costs.

IBON's July 2007 survey was conducted nationwide from July 2 to 13 with 1,488 respondents to find out the people's perception of the economy, their income and livelihood, government performance, and other pressing issues. The latest survey has a margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

#



In the past three months, has your family had difficulty meeting the following expenses?

Tabulation of the results of the respondents' perception on meeting their basic expenses.

	July 2006		July 2007	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Food	992	66.71	997	67.00
Children's Schooling	947	63.69	1,008	67.74
Transportation	887	59.65	972	65.32
Water and/or or Electricity	952	64.02	1,078	72.45
Medicines/Medical Treatment	929	62.47	1,060	71.24

For the full results of the IBON July 2007 Survey, please e-mail us at media@ibon.org or contact us at tel. 927-6986. The results will also be available online at www.ibon.org starting July 28.

Get Involved!

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Tel: _____
 Email: _____

I would like to:

- become a member of Migrante Melbourne
- be updated with information from Migrante Melbourne
- donate to Migrante Melbourne



Migrante Melbourne is a voluntary community organisation of Filipino and Filipino-Australian migrants and workers promoting and upholding their welfare, human rights and workers' rights. It also deepens members' awareness of the root reasons of the Filipino *higra* to over 180 countries and settlement issues in their adopted homelands.

Visit us on the web at www.migrante.org.au
SEND TO PO BOX 606, LAVERTON VIC 3028 or
CALL US on 1300 3666 74

How to Deal with Fines & Infringements

By Reyvi Mariñas

Many of us in our life have already experienced of receiving fines for driving and parking offences or for not having a valid ticket on public transport. Yet we still ask what to do, in case we receive one of these. In this issue, we will look at how to deal with fines and infringements and your options.

How does the infringement system works?

First, you get a fine or sometimes called an 'infringement notice'. The notice will tell you what law you have broken and how much you have been fined.

You can get a fine in a number of ways. For instance, it may be given to you personally, stuck on your car windscreen or mailed to you. You usually have 28 days to pay the fine or disagree with it.

If you think you should not have been fined, do something immediately. The longer you wait, the fewer options you may have, and the more you end up paying.

First option: going to the court?

Going to the court is not always your best option. You may choose to seek legal advise on the possibility of going to the court.

Perhaps, it would be a good idea to ask the agency who fined you to either:

- ⇒ reconsider the fine;
- ⇒ cancel the fine; or
- ⇒ change the fine into a warning.

You must do this as soon as possible to avoid any delays.

If you decide to go to the court, you must attend the hearing. If not, then the court will rule against you (which you will end-up paying the costs of the hearing).

If the court finds you guilty, it will look at your circumstances to decide on the sentence. The court may:

- ⇒ order a smaller or larger fine than the first one;
- ⇒ decide to look at your case later ('adjourn it');
- ⇒ cancel the fine or take away the costs;
- ⇒ cancel or suspend your driver's licence; or
- ⇒ record a conviction against your name.

More option: pay the fine slowly?

You may ask the agency for an option of paying the fine slowly. If the agency says 'yes', then it is worth paying the fine by 'instalment'.

By doing this, you need to agree on a payment plan. The plan sets out how you will pay the fine. You may fill-out a form from the agency who fined you.

What happens if you do not pay the fine on time?

Reminder notice

If you do not pay the fine on time, you will get a 'penalty reminder notice'. This gives you another 28 days to pay.

Court order

If you still do not pay, the Infringements Court will make an 'enforcement order' that says you must pay the fine and any related costs. This can happen without a court hearing. You will get a notice that tells you about the order and you have another 28 days to pay the new amount.

The Infringements Court is different from other courts, because it only deals with fines. It does not hold hearings to decide if you are guilty or not.

Warrant

If the 28 days run out and you still do nothing, the Infringements Court will issue a warrant. A warrant lets the sheriff collect the money from you. More costs are added.

The sheriff will normally come to your home and ask you to pay. If you cannot pay, the sheriff will give you a 'seven-day notice' to pay.

Sale or arrest

If the seven days run out and you do nothing, the sheriff can take your things that you need to live in basic comfort. If you do not have things that can be sold, the sheriff can arrest you. You may be able to do unpaid community work instead of paying the fine. This is called a 'Community Work Permit'.

Asked to go to the court

If you do not pay, you can be asked to go to the court for an 'oral examination'. This means that you have to tell the court about your financial situation and your ability to pay the fine.

If the court thinks you can pay the fine, it can ask your employer to take the money from your wages. This is called an 'attachment to earnings order'. #

Reference: Victoria Legal Aid website at: <http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au>.

Over 16 Million Workers & Community Groups in Solidarity

by Ani Desierto

In an unprecedented display of solidarity, UnionsWA representing 40 unions, its international grouping SIGTUR (Southern Initiative for Globalisation and Trade Union Rights) representing 16 million workers worldwide and Migrante Perth held a fundraiser for over 120 people at the Manila Restaurant in Perth on July 8.

The UnionsWA-Migrante Perth karaoke dinner dance function was organised to support two of the world's most repressed trade union centres - the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) in the Philippines and the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) in Korea.

"There have been over 70 trade union organisers and leaders killed in the Philippines since 2001," says KMU International Secretary Tess Dioquino.

For these human rights violations documented by Amnesty International, Karapatan, Human Rights Watch and the United Nations Human Rights Council - including at least 800 priests, students, workers, environmentalists, journalists, unionists killed and 200 abducted and missing - the Philippines military, with the Philippines Arroyo government's tacit approval, have been held responsible.

The European Parliament in April in a unanimous resolution has demanded the Arroyo government act immediately to stop the killings, saying that Arroyo's "efforts are so far not enough" and that her government "must show real commitment to investigating those killings and a readiness to bring those responsible, including representatives of security forces, to justice".

SIGTUR Coordinator Rob Lambert reminded the fundraiser audience that "6 Korean union organisers have been recently jailed illegally". Several are on an indefinite hunger strike in Seoul in their struggle for better working conditions.

Migrante Perth Deputy Chair Mel Baltazar said their group's focus is advocacy and assistance in Western Australia (WA) for overseas workers from the Philippines (OFWs) and Filipino



Migrante Perth officers sing "Bayan Ko" (My Country) led by Deputy Chair Mel Baltazar. In the background are the Secretary-General of the Saharawi Writers & Journalists Union Malainin Lakhal & Secretary of MUA Chris Cain. Photo courtesy of Arturo Cruz.

migrants. She said many OFWs needed help with unjust and abusive working conditions.

"As part of Migrante International which has over 95 branches in 22 countries worldwide, we are also committed to their international campaigns against trade union repression, against political killings and against the Human Security Act (anti-terror bill) in the Philippines," she said.

UnionsWA Secretary Dave Robinson, officials, organisers and members of numerous unions - the AMWU (Metal Workers Union), CPSUCSA and CPSUPSU (Public Sector Unions), ETU (Electrical Union), LHMU (Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union), MUA (Maritime Union), SSTU (Teachers Unions) were present at the solidarity dinner.

International SIGTUR delegates Roger Soluta (KMU Deputy General Secretary) and Tess Dioquino, SIGTUR Secretariat Daz Victor (working for Thai, Cambodian, Burmese and Laotian unions), international guest from Western Sahara - Malainin Lakhal (Secretary-General of the Saharawi Writers and Journalists Unions) were also present. WA Fair Pay Commissioner Helen Creed dropped by briefly.

Apart from Migrante Perth board members, convenors of the Philippine-Australia Caucus for Peace (PACP), social justice representatives of the Uniting Church, Anglican Church, representatives of the Unitarian Church, the Christian Centre for Social Action, officers of the Peel-Filipino Multicultural Association from the Peel-Mandurah region and of the Damayang Filipino Group also attended the event.



MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM MIGRANTE

Visit us on the web at www.migrante.org.au

Activism and Star Power: The Celebrity Social Activist

By Stephanie Rabusa

Are the songs of one man and his celebrity status and charisma enough to start a revolution?

John Lennon vs. the U.S., the recently shown documentary by David Leaf and John Schienfeld, has been attracting a lot of opposing reviews from the general public, movie reviewers and political analysts alike. The movie was meant to show the side of Lennon after he married Yoko Ono and how he has evolved from a boyish Beatles to a more 'socially aware' man. The criticisms mostly come from the fact that the making of the movie has been closely monitored by Ono and some parts seemed to have been glossed over.

The documentary is an account of Lennon's burgeoning activism and the U.S. government's resulting interest in him, a spying effort that concluded in an ineffectual campaign to get him deported. The movie has somewhat implied that the death of Lennon was perpetrated by the government's paranoia over his influence on the masses. Are the songs of one man and his celebrity status and charisma enough to start a revolution?

There is indeed, an undeniable relationship between music and the State. Music has the power to communicate ideals and worldviews. It also has the ability to tie people together, form a connection and create bonds within the community. Music can invoke a sense of belonging to a shared cause and bind the masses using the same tool. This being said, how true is this today? Have we already seen the best in Bob Dylan and Woody Guthrie? Have the likes of *Asin* and *Rosas ng Digma* been reduced to the underground? Nowadays, revolutionary music is rare and not as fervent as those in the 70s.

However, there seems to be a new trend to the concept of music used in social justice causes - celebrity activist songs.

Take U2, for example. Like Lennon in the 1980s, we have seen the emergence of Bono as a celebrity social activist in the 90s. In the past 25 years, Bono and U2 have lent their hands in the strengthening of advocacy on certain humanitarian and social issues. Their song lyrics have included political messages and are often used in charitable events like the Band Aid in the 1980s and the recent Live Aid concerts for the G8 summit. They

have created songs that have been used to influence an audience that may not have been reached by NGOs and Grassroots movements alone. They have advocated on issues such as anti-war and famine relief efforts in Ethiopia and more recently against problems about Third World Debt and AIDS.

If U2 and other celebrities like Bob Geldoff have used their popularity to bring attention about these social issues, what good has it done?

It is undeniable that the work which Geldoff and Bono have contributed has made significant changes in how the world sees social justice in the era of a post-Cold War globalised world. As celebrities, they are able to persuade their audience to support and become aware of the social causes that they favour. Live Aid's use of highly emotional televised images to encourage donations subsequently changed the face of international fundraising.

However, even with their phenomenal successes, they cannot solve the world's problems. Their actions are constrained by much more complex web of cultural, social and political factors. In other words, their power is limited. In most instances, problems are not addressed on the political level. The advocacy becomes charity as the bands' fans dig deep in their pockets to contribute financially to the cause. Although financial help does not usually hurt, this does not solve the problem.

The other downside can also come in the form of doing 'good' as a heroic act. Celebrity activists can influence the way in which we act on principle to affect our immediate surroundings. In other words, people can be influenced by which celebrities support what cause. This can diminish the perceived importance of other cause not supported by celebrities.

As individuals living in an ever changing world, we face problems and challenges constantly. At certain times in our lives, we would need some new songs and stories to give us that little push to bring us into action. This does not necessarily need to take a big celebrity to do it.

“Forging greater heights of strength and unity”

*Solidarity message for Migrante-Melbourne's Anniversary
August 11, 2007
by the Executive Committee*

Warm greetings from Migrante International!

We salute all the officers and members of Migrante-Melbourne on the occasion of your anniversary and growing commitment to arouse, organize and mobilize our compatriots in your region.

We also congratulate you anew on your successful protests during Mrs. Arroyo's visit there last May. Your Australia-wide picket (against the political killings and the signing of the RP-Australia Status of Forces Agreement) along with the successive protests mounted during her stops in Japan, New Zealand and Italy manifested our capacity as a sector to expose and oppose Arroyo on the international stage.

As a destination country, Australia ranks high among those whose “import” of OFWs has multiplied greatly in recent years. In 2006, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration documented the export of 2,318 OFWs to Australia - a great leap from the 586 OFWs deployed there in 2005 and the 182 in 1998. A stock estimate by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas pegs the number of Filipinos in Australia at an estimated 236,525.

This intensified export of Filipinos to Australia is mirrored in the record-high numbers of Filipinos forced to leave the country daily. In 2006, an estimated 1.08 million Filipinos left the country to work in over 180 countries. The majority still toil as domestic workers, laborers and seafarers. Remittances last year reached US\$12.8 billion while this year alone, remittances have consistently breached the US\$1 billion mark monthly.

But in spite of the immense economic contribution of overseas Filipinos into the ailing Philippine economy, human rights violations against them still abound. Last year, our Migrants Rights and Welfare Program documented more than 1,000 cases of abuse while this year, we have already received around 280.

The most extreme cases of injustice against Filipino migrants include the plight of 35 OFWs languishing on death row and

the recent expose of 51 OFWs trafficked to Iraq to build the US Embassy in Baghdad.

As such, your gathering today is timely given the escalating abuses and attacks against Filipino migrant workers and the Filipino people. More than ever, it is imperative that as overseas Filipinos and their families, we expand and consolidate further our ranks so that we may mount the strongest resistance against the anti-people Arroyo regime. As an alliance of more than 100 organizations across 22 countries, Migrante International recognizes the important contribution Filipino migrant organizations play in arousing, organizing and mobilizing the broadest ranks of overseas Filipinos and their families within the framework of our national democratic struggle.

Since we founded Migrante International more than ten years ago, we have achieved many victories. From Flor Contemplacion to Angelo dela Cruz and the Lebanon Crisis, we effectively raised our sectoral struggles into national issues that shook the foundation and directly exposed the inutility and accountability of the Ramos and Arroyo administrations respectively.

From internationally-coordinated activities around campaigns for migrants' rights to campaigns against political repression and political killings in the Philippines - our regional and global actions highlight the important role overseas Filipinos and their families play in our struggle for the rights and welfare of our sector and justice for our people.

Our coordinated global actions have also led to positive policy changes for our sector. Among our victories in this arena include the successful scrapping of double taxation and the non-implementation of a directive to almost double the forced membership fee for migrants at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. Recently, we successfully exposed the corruption of funds at the OWWA during the height of the Lebanon Crisis and we raised high the alarm over the government's long neglect of OFWs in prison and on death row.



But as we mark our victories, there are also numerous challenges that we face as an alliance.

1. In the homefront, our particular challenges include: the comprehensive organizing of migrant families, returned migrants and "would-be" migrants; and the strengthening of our capacity to coordinate sectoral and multi-sectoral campaigns among our member organizations.
2. Another challenge for us is the maximization of a Migrants Rights Information Program that will contribute towards our effort of arousing, organizing and mobilizing migrants and their families. This Migrants Rights Program is a new initiative premised on the need to empower migrants with the information and capacity to know and fight for their rights.
3. In the immediate, we are also tasked with assisting in the formation of an anti-imperialist International Migrants Alliance (IMA). By identifying and inviting progressive migrant organizations from other nationalities to the IMA, Migrante-Melbourne can help maximize the capacity of grassroots migrant groups to mount a strong resistance against imperialist globalization. The first IMA assembly is set for May 2008.
4. We also need to mobilize even greater ranks of overseas Filipinos and their families to ensure our amplified voices reach Malacanang and contribute to the unmasking of

Mrs. Arroyo's anti-people and dictatorial policies on the world stage. In this regard, let us continue to intensify campaigns and demands to stop the political killings, the junking of the Anti-Terrorism Act and Justice for Prof. Jose Maria Sison.

In closing, let us maximize together the great capacity overseas Filipinos and their families play in attaining justice for our compatriots and in forging a Philippines that has national industrialization and genuine land reform - as part of our effort to attain a dream of a homeland wherein families are no longer torn apart because of the need to survive.

Migrante International again salutes all the members and officers of Migrante-Melbourne! Let us forge even greater heights of strength and unity - for migrants and the Filipino people!

*Mabuhay ang Migrante-Melbourne!
Mabuhay ang migrante at pamilya!
Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!
Itaguyod ang pambansang
demokratikong pakikibaka!*



**STOP THE KILLINGS
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

From 2001 when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the Philippine presidency, Karapatan (Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights) has documented more than 858 political killings and 198 disappeared.

Join Us in Demanding

Justice for the victims and the end of killings, abduction and harassment
of human rights and community activists in the Philippines

Events Calendar - Mark your Diary

11 August 2007, Saturday - Migrante Melbourne's "Tipanan"

DETAILS: 6.00 p.m., Laverton Civic Centre, Cor Railway Ave & Crown St, Laverton. A celebration and a venue for the whole family to dance, eat, perform, watch and enjoy together. A fundraising activity for Migrante Shelter Philippines. For further information and tickets contact Danny at 93693158, Reyvi at 0421119776 or Migrante Melbourne at 1300366674.

22 August 2007, Wednesday - Public Meeting - "Right to Strike"

DETAILS: 7.00 p.m., New Council Chamber, TradesHall, Corner Lygon St and Victoria St., Carlton
For information call Len Cooper - 0438 389302 or Dave Kerrin - 0412 484094

25 August 2007. Saturday - Report on Human Rights

DETAILS: Launching of the Verdict of the Permanent Peoples Tribunal second session on the Philippines
Held at the Hague, the Netherlands. For information call May of PASA - 0411 406700

27 August 2007, Monday - Get together & Dinner

DETAILS: 6.00 p.m. Migrante Melbourne will host Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) chairperson Elmer Labog to an informal sharing and dinner with members and friends

29 August 2007, Wednesday - Public Meeting ... "Organising Across Borders. Stop The Killings & Building Solidarity"

DETAILS: 6.30 p.m. AMWU Office, 251 Queensberry St., Carlton South. Sponsor by AMWU, AAWL and Migrante Melbourne. For Information call Chris Spindler - 0425 784819 or Jun Cabanos - 0415 154352

01 September 2007, Saturday - Conference "A People's Alternative to APEC"

DETAILS: 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m., Casey Plaza Lecture Theatre, Bowen Street, RMIT Organised by International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) - Australia. For information call CEPU - 9349 4411

04 - 06 September 2007, Tuesday to Thursday - FTA Strategy Workshop To Oppose Free Trade Agreements (FTAs): Making People Matter

DETAILS: Mechanics Institute, Pitt Street, Sydney, Organised by Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) and AID Watch. For information email secretariat@aprn.org or call +632 9277060-62 loc 202

11 - 14 October 2007, Thursday to Sunday - Latin America and Asia Pacific International Solidarity Forum.... "Struggle Against Neo-liberalism and Capitalist Plunder"

DETAILS: Various venues in Melbourne. For information contact AAWL at 9663 7277



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Migrante Melbourne : : PO Box 606, Laverton, VIC 3028