

Resolutions of the 2007 International Peace Conference in Manila

Asian people gathered here and the International Peace Conference was held on the 28th – 29th April 2007, in Manila, the Philippines. Invited to this conference were representatives of Iraq Freedom Congress (IFC) which is advancing the struggle to attain the withdrawal of occupation forces from Iraq and building a secular and democratic Iraqi society, and of U. S. Labor Against the War (USLAW) which is struggling to bring the occupation troops home and to strengthen anti-war movements inside the United States. This conference was realized through the efforts between ZENKO (National Assembly for Peace and Democracy), Japan, and MAPALAD KA (Parents and Children Against War and Violence), the Philippines, in cooperation with Peace for Life, inheriting the achievements of the International Conference in Solidarity with IFC which was held in January 2006, in Tokyo.

Participants in the Manila Peace Conference discussed how to end as soon as possible the chain of massacre and violence inflicted upon people in Iraq by the occupation, the danger of suppression of human rights and pro-war militarization of society which are conducted around the globe under the name of the War on Terrorism. Also discussed was how to strengthen movements to denounce and stop political killings particularly rampant in the Philippines. The following lines of actions are confirmed in the spirit of international solidarity.

1. Four years have passed since the attack on Iraq and occupation of it by the US and the coalition of the willing. It is now clear to any eye how brutal and bankrupt the occupation policies are. The occupation forces led by the US military and the Iraqi army of the puppet regime are continuing to capture and jail people by Law Enforcement Operations, while political Islam are intensifying their military actions targeting civilian population. The true nature of this massacre of Iraqi civilians is conflicts over interests in oil share. Unless we drive the occupiers out of Iraq, we cannot protect the life and security of Iraqi people. The struggle to bring an end to the occupation of Iraq is a central issue for the world peace movement.

- * Let us stage an international campaign around the world to demand the immediate suspension of Law Enforcement Operations that are killing the Iraqi civilians.
- * We support the peace movement in the United States that demands the end of occupation now.
- * Let us coordinate international actions in September to make 2007 the final year of the occupation of Iraq.

2. In order to end the occupation of Iraq and to protect the security of people, we express our solidarity with IFC in their struggles to end the occupation and to build a secular and democratic society in Iraq. We also need to stop the terror and violence by *Political Islam*¹. We support the Iraq Freedom Congress in their creating localities where residents are protected from sectarian violence under the slogan of “No Shiite, No Sunni, but We are humans”, and in their rebuilding and organizing labor unions to secure jobs and workers’ rights, and in protecting women and children.

The US\$400,000 fund raising campaign to enable IFC satellite TV was started by the special resolution adopted in the International IFC Solidarity Conference in January 2006. The campaign has got under way mainly in Japan as well as around the world, and succeeded in opening TV station and starting its tentative broadcasting in April. IFC satellite TV is strongly instrumental in spreading the movements to end the occupation and to rebuild democratic society. World peace movements will learn through the satellite TV truths of Iraq and people’s movement there, and this will renew and strengthen the world peace movements.

* Let us, world peace movements, strengthen international solidarity to support Iraq Freedom Congress in their effort to end the occupation and build a secular and democratic society.

* Let us facilitate the internet broadcasting system so that people can see the IFC satellite TV around the globe.

3. We note the progress of US anti-war movements that has driven the Bush administration into a defeat in the mid-term election last November. The poll that indicates the popularity of Bush continues to fall, and the military option that Bush has wielded at his own will under a banner of the war on terrorism is no longer at his disposal. Bush’s greatest partner, Blair administration of the UK, has decided to withdraw from Iraq. One ally after another is either leaving Iraq or decreasing its troops stationed in Iraq. It is a matter of time that the coalition of the willing will collapse. *It is the anti-war, peace forces in the world that are determining the world situation*².

¹ *Political Islam is a term that refers to the political forces which aim to gain power by using their Islamic religion and impose their agenda on the society. They do not care killing innocent civilians.*

² *With registered reservations expressed by the following individuals/organizations: Cathy ESTABILLO and Lenie ROBINOS of AMIHAN – National Federation of Peasant Women, Association for the Rights of Children in Southeast Asia, Rita BAUA of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Children’s Rehabilitation Center, Gabriela, Parents Alternative, Inc., Peace for Life, Samahan ng Maagang Pagkatuto ng Bata (SMPB), Salinlahi Foundation, Inc., Suara Bangsa Moro Party List.*

* Let us strengthen the solidarity ties with the US anti-war movements, like USLAW and UFPJ, and terminate the Bush administration and the war on terrorism.

* Let us oppose the global realignment of US military bases, and intensify the movements to remove US military facilities.

4. Arroyo regime of the Philippines is intensifying its political killing in the name of the war on terror. Being murdered are a number of democratic political figures, human right activists, clergymen, activists in peasant and labor movement, lawyers, etc. This Arroyo regime and its military are supported by the US military and Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).

* Let us stage a campaign to demand that the Philippine government stop the war on terror and suppression of human rights, and should punish the perpetrators of political killings and those responsible for them.

5. It is a common task for the people all over the world to disband the war-waging system and to bring an end to the neo-liberalist policies. Global capitalism, provoking war around the world, expanding 'free trade' 'deregulation and privatization' are bringing about unilateral concentration of wealth on the part of the rich and bottomless poverty on the part of the people. 'Welfare for the people, not war' and 'Cut military expenditures, fund welfare and education' are the demand of the people beyond the border. Participants in the Manila Peace Conference have confirmed that we need to build more international solidarity and mutual exchange of our movements for the development of people's welfare, education and life. We will constitute the formation of a network that could be a channel for people-initiated campaigns, advocacies and program development of citizen's organizations, to be known as the I-SCOPE (International Solidarity of Citizen's Cooperation for Peace) Network.

* Let us promote the campaign to protect children's rights and education.

- Let us support MAPALAD KA, a community-based families for peace movement in the Philippines, and strengthen its links with existing children's advocacy groups, particularly the community-based groups in the Philippines and invite them to be part of the I-SCOPE Network.
- Let us initiate the holding of a Philippine-Japan Children and Families for Peace Congress with the theme "children's welfare not war"; and involve members of the network to participate in the planning and implementation of the congress or any other succeeding activities that may be decided upon.
- Let us organize international fact finding missions that will focus and pursue the just investigation of the victims of human rights violations and militarization; particularly

children who were branded as “child soldiers” and present the results to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

- Let us push for ordinances that will ensure the protection of children’s rights and welfare.
 - Let us hold international photo and drawing exhibitions that will show the realities of children’s situations in every country.
- * Let us expand our campaign to exclude military forces from our communities and create Non-Defended Localities, as provided for by the international law to get rid of the military forces, foreign or national, to prevent militarization of communities.
- * Let us strengthen local unions, youth’s activism and women’s movement to struggle against unemployment, contractualization of labor, and poverty.
- * Let us oppose Japan’s ODA which has destroyed the life of local residents and environment, and support the victims.
- Let us struggle for the cancellation of all debts acquired by countries from the ODA.
 - Let us create children protection centers in militarized areas where there are existing ODA projects.
 - Let us establish a committee that will assist on the legal issues concerning the effects of ODA Projects

Adopted by the Manila International Peace Conference 2007.

The Manila International Peace Conference

The 29th of April 2007