



# KILUSANG MAYO UNO

(May First Movement Labor Center)  
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*KMU is a founding member of the International League of Peoples' Struggle*

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30 January 2008

Dear fellow Trade Unionists and Supporters:

*Kilusang Mayo Uno* (KMU) extends its greetings of international solidarity to you with commitment and enthusiasm as we mark the beginning of another year in the crucible of working class struggle.

We are writing to invite you to attend the KMU's 24<sup>th</sup> International Solidarity Affair (ISA) set to take place from 29 April - 9 May 2008 in Manila, Philippines.

Workers and toiling people of the world face 2008 with growing dismay, alarm and outrage at the continuing deterioration of our jobs, lives, and human rights at the hands of imperialist onslaught. The current crisis of the world capitalist system, pushed by the U.S.'s agenda of "neoliberal" globalization and the global war of terror are responsible for deepening the crisis of monopoly capitalism.

Both in the imperialist and poor countries alike, the workers suffer from low wages, high unemployment and job insecurity. Their democratic rights to form unions and to strike are restricted. Workers bear the daily violence of the exploitative and oppressive system of imperialism at its worst.

In the Philippines, the non-stop repression of workers' rights is seen in outright violence and harassment on picket lines, such as the food blockade and violent dispersal in Jan 26 against the more than 350 picketing workers of Hanjin Garments in Laguna in Southern Tagalog. Worse is the abduction and brutal murder of labor leaders and unionists in a desperate attempt to dampen the assertion of labor rights. Since 2001 under the US-supported Gloria Macapagal Arroyo regime, 78 workers and labour advocates have been killed and hundreds became victims of abduction, harassment and grave intimidation.

But the working class and the people of the world are fighting back against imperialist plunder. There is an upsurge in workers' struggles against suppression of rights, unemployment, diminution of social benefits, racism, discrimination and repression.

In factories, workplaces, communities, marches, protest rallies, and strikes, the proletariat and people in the imperialist and oppressed countries are standing up in defense of their rights. There is a rising tide of international solidarity against killings, enforced disappearances and other forms of trade union and political repression.

Against this backdrop, we invite you to participate in this year's ISA. Together, let us gather and share our common experiences and struggles as we continue to draw lessons in our journey to advance our common fight for workers' rights and achieve the historic liberation of the working class.

Attached is the concept paper with further details of ISA 2008.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing your positive response.

In solidarity,

Elmer Labog  
KMU Chairperson