

**MUTLI-PARTISAN SUPPORT FOR PEACE PROCESSES IN THE  
PHILIPPINES**  
**A Covenant Based on the Respect for Human Rights and the Pursuit of  
Social Justice**

*Introductory Note:*

*Four decades of protracted armed conflicts have raged in the country. Peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front – and, previously with the Moro National Liberation Front – have equally been protracted but seldom sustained, leading to a situation where the main factors which underlie the conflicts have not been seriously addressed. It was the pioneer peace advocate, the late Senator Jose W. Diokno, who argued that to resolve the situation of violence confronted by the country the priority needed to shift from mainly military means to a negotiated approach whose main agenda would focus on “jobs and justice, food and freedom.” The proposed covenant which follows attempts to forge a working consensus among political leaders from different political parties and organizations to take up a common position of support for peace processes as the country enters a defining electoral season. By forging a common front to advance peace negotiations as the preferred option to address the challenges we face, we are paving the way to build a just and durable peace which our children deserve.*

**Advancing a Peace Covenant**

The Advocates for a Peace Covenant (APC) hopes to catalyze – in concert with other ongoing peace initiatives – a modest yet timely effort that will broaden and deepen the peace constituency in the country. It aims to encourage multi-partisan support for peace processes in the country based on the principles of human rights and social justice – across political divides and generations.

*Endorsements:* This undertaking hopes to gain the endorsement of individuals, groups, organizations, and movements around a peace covenant that is based on the respect for human rights and the pursuit of social justice – to which different political formations, parties, party-list groups and national and local candidates can subscribe to – during the course of the year and particularly in the campaign period in the run-up to the national elections 2010.

*Gatherings:* A gathering on the Peace Covenant on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September from 9:30 to 12 noon at the SGV Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the AIM Conference Center. There will be a further gathering on the eve or on human rights day, 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2009 around the Waging Peace Conference event scheduled during that period bringing together civil society organizations and party formations to formalize adherence to the proposed peace covenant.

*Follow-Up:* Based on consultations with different individuals and groups, follow-up to this process will be discussed and formulated so that there will be monitoring and enforcement of the provisions of the peace covenant in the lifetime of the next government and in the policies and practice adopted by elected political leaders who pledge to adhere to the principles espoused in the covenant.

## **A PEACE COVENANT**

We, the representatives and leaders of different political parties and organizations, re-affirm our support for the peace processes in the country, expressing our preferences for negotiated approaches to address the issues of poverty and inequality, human rights violations and injustice, social exclusion and discrimination which underlie the armed conflicts in the country.

We resolve to protect human rights, putting an end to political killings and unresolved human rights violations. We intend to put a stop to electoral violence which in the past has become part of our contentious electoral contests.

We will work to build the peace that comes from meeting the basic needs of our people such as jobs, land and livelihood; homes, health, and education, and the safety and security of our communities – especially as the world confronts the present economic crisis and the impacts of climate change and environment degradation.

We pledge to put people at the heart of our politics, to put principles over patronage, and to forge a common sense of purpose as befits public servants who will heed the cry of the most vulnerable in our society as well as respond to the hopes of future generations.

We commit to protect and expand democratic space so that the diverse voices in our society are given due respect and that social change comes about in ways that are more inclusive and collaborative since the peace we pursue is far too important to become another casualty of partisan politics.

We will together – though we belong to different political persuasions – build a more peaceful and prosperous future that our children deserve.

**09 September 2009**

**Advocates for a Peace Covenant**

The Advocates for a Peace Covenant is an occasional forum composed initially of former Senators Bobby Tañada and Santanina Rasul, Dr. Jun Mercado, OMI, Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, SJ, Dr. Patricia Licuanan, Prof. Randy David, Prof. Ed Garcia, and the convenors of the Waging Peace Philippines, among others. Its secretariat is at the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hoffner

Building, Ateneo de Manila University, Q.C. Tel Nos 426-6122/ 426-6064. E-mail:  
[gzopeace@gmail.com](mailto:gzopeace@gmail.com), [ktanada@gmail.com](mailto:ktanada@gmail.com)

**Advocates for a PEACE COVENANT**

**Initial List of Official Endorsers**

As of September 22, 2009

**Peace/Human Rights NGOs:**

Ateneo Human Rights Center  
Center for Peace Education – Miriam College  
Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute  
Human Right Defenders in Cebu  
Human Rights Defenders in Negros  
Human Rights Defenders in Tacloban  
Initiatives for International Dialogue  
Interreligious Solidarity Movement For Peace-Zamboanga  
Mindanao Peaceweavers  
Mindanao Solidarity Network  
Our Movement for a Nonkilling Philippines  
Paghiliusa sa Paghidaet Negros  
Pax Christi Pilipinas  
Peace Advocates Zamboanga  
Philippine Action Network on Small Arms  
Philippine Campaign against Cluster Munitions  
Task Force Detainees of the Philippines  
Waging Peace Philippines Network  
World Without Wars Philippines

**Youth:**

Brotherhood of Destiny  
Generation Peace  
NAPC Youth and Students  
United Youth for Peace and Development  
Youth Aid Philippines

**Religious:**

Caritas Manila  
Social Action Center Legazpi  
The OMI Communications

**Academe:**

Association of Schools of Public Administration  
Ateneo Political Science Department  
Ateneo School of Government  
Kalayaan College  
Miriam College

**Environmental:**

Philippine Climate Change Imperative

**Women:**

NAPC Women Council  
PILIPINA  
Women and Gender Institute  
Women's Action Network for Development  
Women's Feature Service

**Business:**

Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development  
District 3081 Rotary Club  
Makati Business Club  
Management Association of the Philippines  
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**Civic Organizations:****Media:**

Catholic Media Network  
Environmental Broadcast Circle  
Foundation for Media Alternatives  
National Alliance of Broadcast Unions  
PeaceComm  
Philippine Press Institute  
Radio Veritas

**Other CSOs:**

Action for Economic Reform  
Aktibong Nagsusulong ng Alternatibong Kultura, Inc.  
ANAK-TEATRO  
Association of Foundations  
Confederation of Independent Union in the Public Sector  
Eastern Visayas Network of NGOs and POs  
Institute for Autonomy and Governance  
Institute for the Study of Asian Church & Culture  
Kilos Kanayunan Laban sa Kahirapan, A United Movement of Farmers, Rural  
Workers and Indigenous People  
Kusog Mindanao  
Liwawa Ed Asinan Foundation Inc.  
Mindanao Integrated Network Development Center  
Ortigas Foundation  
Pandayan Para sa Sosyalistang Pilipinas  
Partnership of Philippine Support Services, Inc.  
Peace and Equity Foundation  
People's Alternative Studies Center for Research and Education in Social  
Development  
Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Inc. (PCAFI)  
Philippine Employer-Labor Social Partners, Inc. (PELSPI)  
Tanghalang Bonifacio-Rizal, Inc.  
Touch Foundation, Inc.

**Basic Sectors:**

Kongreso ng Pagakakisa ng Manggagawa sa Pilipinas  
NAPC Basic Sectors Forum  
NAPC IP Council  
NAPC Urban Poor Council  
National Labor Union  
PAKISAMA  
Workers Welfare Watch-Philippines

**Individuals:**

Amina Rasul  
Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, SJ  
Atty. Carlos Medina  
Augusto Miclat Jr.  
Bobbitt Librojo  
Bros. Ellis Gil Luciano, Augustinians of the Assumption  
Cesar Villanueva  
Chit Asis  
Cristina Gregorio  
Dr. Jose V. Abueva  
Dr. Patricia Licuanan  
Filomenon S. Sta. Ana  
Florenca Casanova-Dorotan  
Fr. Eliseo Mercado, OMI  
Fr. Jhess Malit  
George Bradford Patterson II  
Grace Gorospe Jamon  
Jasmin Nario-Galace  
Jim Paredes  
Joel Saracho  
Jose L. Pavia  
Loreta Castro  
Mardi Mapa-Suplido  
Marites Guingona-Africa  
Miguel "Mike" Maga, Jr.  
Muriel Orevillo-Montengro, Ph.D.  
Nereus Acosta  
Prof. Ed Garcia  
Prof. Randy David  
Prof. Victor Aguilan, Th.D  
Ray Dean Salvosa  
Rex C. Drilon II

Sen. Santanina Rasul  
Sen. Wigberto Tañada  
Sr. Cres Lucero, SFIC  
Sr. Vida Cordero, SFIC  
Veronica F. Villavicencio  
Victoria M. Segovia  
Wilson C. Wy Tiu

**Principal Witness/Independent Monitor:**  
Commission on Human Rights, Philippines